PLANS FOR A JAPANESE-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER IN THE NORTHWEST

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATION AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ONTARIO, OR, AUGUST 17, 1988

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PLANS FOR A JAPANESE-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER IN THE NORTHWEST

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1988

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATION AND
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Ontario, OR.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1 p.m., in room 10, Weese Room, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, OR, Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Chairman WYDEN. Today the subcommittee will examine Malheur County's plans for a Japanese-American cultural center. The hearing today is going to focus on the cultural, historical, educational, and economic aspects of the proposal, and on the type and scope of Government support that might be available for the project.

I believe this hearing will demonstrate the proposed Japanese-American cultural center has the potential to become a nationally recognized site for educational research into the internment period.

The center would both memorialize Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II, and promote research into the internment to assure that the period's mistakes are never repeated in our country.

While education should remain the center's primary purpose, and it is that purpose that we're particularly interested in today, I believe today's testimony will also show that the project would create a powerful force for tourism and economic development in eastern Oregon, pumping an estimated $1.2 million into the economy each year.

Especially for local businesses in this area, I think this will create new opportunities for growth and economic diversification.

The center's ability to serve as a destination point for both American and Japanese tourists is also going to be a great benefit to other parts of the State.

For example, many of the tourists, who we believe would come from Japan, would land at the Portland International Airport which is in the heart of my congressional district.

So, I believe the educational, cultural, and research, as well as economic benefits that this project would generate, will be of benefit from one end of our State to another.

Now it is fitting that this hearing occurs less than 1 week after the President of the United States signed into law H.R. 442, the

Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Like this landmark legislation, the Japanese-American cultural center would serve as a memorial to the 120,000 Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II.

This dark episode in our Nation's history began in February 1942, when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066. Soon after, all American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens were forced to leave the west coast.

Shortly we'll hear from some officials of the Snake River chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League, that many of those individuals had just a few days to sell or abandon their homes and business and gather their possessions.

They were then shipped to camps in Idaho, Arizona, Utah, Arkansas, Colorado, Wyoming, California, and other locations in the West and Southwest.

These prison-like camps were surrounded by barbed wire and patrolled by armed sentries and guard dogs. Residents endured unsanitary living conditions, family separations, and a near total loss of their privacy.

In the testimony, we'll hear that hopelessness drove some in the camps to suicide, while others died prematurely due to lack of medical facilities and the harsh environment.

In addition to this loss of livelihood and property, the fact is that Japanese-American citizens were denied their most basic constitutional rights. They were interned without regard to due process of law, the right to a speedy and fair trial, freedom from arrest, search without probable cause, and the freedom of speech, travel, and privacy.

This occurred though there was no evidence that these individuals threatened the Nation's security. No citizens or resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who were interned were ever charged, I repeat, ever charged with or convicted of treasonous activity.

It has taken this country more than 40 years to apologize to our Japanese-American citizens. The shameful silence ended last week when President Reagan signed into law H.R. 442. The legislation offers the Nation's apology to Japanese-Americans, for the relocation, evacuation, and internment that took place.

It also authorizes restitution payments of $20,000 to each surviving person interned or forced to move.

Finally, the legislation establishes an education trust fund of activities on the internment period. Because of the special role that this county played during that period, the community believes it can contribute to the educational effort through establishment of a Japanese-American cultural center.

During World War II, Ontario and the surrounding county were classified as a free zone, due to its inland location. As John Kirby, cochairman of the Cultural Center Steering Committee will note in his testimony, this allowed Japanese-American families already living here to remain, and others to relocate to the county.

In fact, this was the largest community of voluntarily relocated Japanese-Americans in the United States. After the war, the county's Japanese-American population increased to over 5,000.

Plans for the Japanese-American cultural center that we have reviewed are ambitious. In addition to multimedia and conference

facilities, the center will include a museum patterned after the Smithsonian Institution's current exhibit, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese-Americans and the U.S. Constitution."

Very shortly we'll hear from Dr. Thomas Crouch, curator of the Smithsonian exhibit, who will provide his thoughts on how a similar exhibit could be assembled here in Ontario.

I'm very pleased that Dr. Crouch could be here. My office was very much interested in having Dr. Crouch. I think that his presence here today is an indication that the efforts being undertaken in Ontario have generated national interest, and I think Dr. Crouch's presence here is a great compliment to the work that's already been done and evidence of the fine efforts that are under way.

We are also going to hear about the center's educational potential from the chair of the board of Treasure Valley Community College, and because of its location on the college campus, the center would be ideally positioned to promote educational research into the internment and related subjects such as constitutional law, Japanese language, literature, philosophy, and modern day Japanese-American relations.

Finally, there is the important economic focus that this project will have in terms of tourism, employment, and small business opportunities.

We're delighted that Alice Trindle, the regional coordinator for the Oregon Tourism Division, will be on hand to testify, because it's the view of the Oregon Tourism Division that this project will generate national interest in our State and significantly raise the awareness of Oregon in Japan. The center also, as I have said, creates a strong incentive for Japanese tourists to enter the country through Portland International Airport and, frankly, to spend time visiting in communities around our State.

So, we have an ideal group of witnesses today.

Before we begin our formal testimony I'd like to read a letter that arrived from the Governor before we began the hearing, not in time to include it in our hearing, but I'm going to read it, because I think it's an indication of the strong support of Governor Neil Goldschmidt for this project.

The Honorable RON WYDEN,
U.S. House of Representatives,
1406 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Dear Ron:

Thank you for coming to Malheur County to conduct a hearing on the proposed Japanese-American Cultural Center. With the President's signature last week on the legislation to provide redress to those Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II, your timing is especially appropriate.

I believe that the center which is being proposed by citizens of Malheur County is consistent with the goals of that legislation and its provisions which authorize funding for education efforts. It is my hope that Congress will provide appropriations to carry out the features of the legislation and that this particular project will qualify for funding.

As I am sure you recognize, realization of this project would also enhance the tourism economy of this region. I'd appreciate your recognition of the importance of the project and want to assure you that I will do whatever I can to work with you and other Members of our congressional delegation on its behalf.

Sincerely, Neil Goldschmidt, Governor, State of Oregon.

So, I'm delighted to make that letter from the Governor, which has just arrived, a part of the record.

I will state again that I think that this is an ideal time for us to be having this hearing and to document on the public record for the Congress, the significant benefits that this project will have—educational benefits, cultural benefits, as well as economic development benefits. I'm delighted to have a chance to be here and to convene the subcommittee for our distinguished witnesses.

Let me call forward at this time our first panel, John Kirby, cochairman, the Japanese-American Cultural Center Steering Committee, Ontario, OR; Francis McLean, publisher of the Argus Observer, Ontario, OR; and Dr. Ann Easly, chairperson, board of directors, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, OR.

Let me welcome all of our witnesses. I do note that we have four panels, all made up of very good witnesses, so what I'm going to do is make your prepared remarks a part of the record in their entirety.

If you could summarize in 5 minutes or so, your principal concerns, that would help us to move expeditiously, and hear from everyone. So, do not feel that your remarks will not be made a part of the record. Because that is clearly essential. But I would like you to try to summarize, in 5 minutes or so, your principal views.

Mr. Kirby, we welcome you, and thank you for the chance to work with you, and look forward to your testimony.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN KIRBY, COCHAIRMAN, JAPANESE-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE, ONTARIO, OR

Mr. KIRBY. Thank you Congressman. First of all, on behalf of the members of the Japanese-American Cultural Center Committee, and the members of Treasure Valley community, I'd like to welcome you here.

I'd also thank you and your staff for helping do this. Mr. Kirk Johnson of your staff has been most helpful.

I will read my statement because mine should come in within that time limit.

We are proposing the establishment of a memorial cultural center on the campus of Treasure Valley Community College, in Ontario, OR, to tell the story of the evacuation, relocation, and internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The story is an important part of American History that to this time has remained virtually untold. It is painful for us as a Nation to look at this part of our history. It is also painful for those who experienced relocation and internment. But as a part of this pain, must come enlightenment. We must share and tell the story for future generations to understand all the experiences of this, our maturing Nation. It will help us understand the need to be a government of laws rather than of men.

As with other historical accounts in our country, we feel the story will best be told where it happened. Other history of our Nation is told at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Philadelphia. The relocation and internment of Japanese-Americans took place here in the West. The War Relocation Authority, otherwise known as the WRA, established sites to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans at Manzanar in the Owens Valley of eastern California, Tule Lake in northern California near the Oregon border, Minidoka in

south-central Idaho, Hart Mountain just east of Cody, in Wyoming, Granada in the Arkansas Valley of southeastern Colorado, Topaz in central Utah, Gila River southwest of Phoenix AZ, and Rohrer and Jerome in Arkansas. Except for the Arkansas sites, all were in semidesert areas away from major population. Today the sites are all but gone—memorial plaques mark their location.

However, just prior to the forced relocation, many families were given a chance to voluntarily relocate into so-called Free Zones. Some areas in the Free Zone did not want mass relocation of citizens of Japanese Ancestry. For instance, the State of Utah legislatively barred the relocation of coastal Japanese-Americans into their State.

The Malheur Valley of eastern Oregon was different. There was already an established community of Japanese-Americans here. More came and were put to work in the fields, homes, and businesses of this eastern Oregon county.

Circumstances were creating other problems for our Nation. Thousands of acres of cropland were being overwhelmed by weeds or being stunted by lack of care. The war effort required food, but it couldn't be grown without manpower. As a trial, the WRA allowed a small group of men from the Portland Assembly Center to be taken to Malheur County to investigate working and living conditions. Their favorable report led to scores of men, anxious for freedom, to volunteer for farm labor. Because of the Malheur County experience, up to 10,000 evacuees were given leave to help bring in the crops in Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and Montana. The evacuees were in such great demand that farmers even tried to lure them away from neighbors.

Ultimately, over 5,000 Japanese-Americans were living in this valley. This was the largest community of voluntary relocated Japanese-Americans in the United States. Small Japanese farming communities, such as nearby Jamieson, existed at that time. Today the residents are completely integrated into both rural and urban western Treasure Valley, with a population of over 2,000. It has been estimated that 80 percent of the Nisei, or second generation Japanese, in the United States have knowledge of Malheur County and knew it as a refuge during the war.

Agriculture is the area's prime economy, and Japanese-Americans can be credited for their knowledge of intensive row-crop techniques, which has aided in the establishment of a strong farm economy in Malheur County. Sustained by their pride in their culture, the Japanese-Americans have banded together through their common heritage as well as assimilating into the Nation's melting pot. Today, in Ontario, Oregon has become the center for cultural, religious, and business activities for the Japanese-American community in the region.

We are proposing a memorial consisting of three components, a museum with complimenting Japanese garden, a multimedia center, and a multipurpose facility. This would serve as an ongoing educational center to tell the story of evacuation, relocation, and internment of some of this country's citizens. It would become the permanent home for many of the items currently on display in the Smithsonian Institution's exhibit, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese-Americans and the U.S. Constitution." An accompanying ex-

hibit would tell the story of the Japanese in America from the 1800's to the present, with emphasis given to the impact on agriculture.

Just to stray from my comments here this morning, I had the opportunity to go with Dr. Thomas Crouch into the agriculture community we have here, and to visit with farmers in the field as they harvested their onions, which is right in the heart of the harvest, and to go to the produce sheds and talk with some of the Nisei here and to really realize the impact that this community has had agriculturally from the residents of Japanese ancestry who have relocated here. We would not be the same community today, were it not for them.

The second component would be a 1,200 seat multimedia center for theatrical performances, concerts, films, lectures, and meetings.

The third section would be a multipurpose facility available for seminars, meetings, and conferences. It would be also utilized by Treasure Valley Community College.

The Malheur County Japanese-American Cultural Center would officially open on February 19, 1992. Exactly 50 years after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066. The opening of the cultural center not only acknowledges our Nation's errors, but helps to serve that it will never happen again. I thank you sir.

Chairman WYDEN. John, thank you very much for a very helpful statement, and we'll have some questions in a just a moment. Dr. Easly.

TESTIMONY OF DR. ANN EASLY, CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ONTARIO, OR

Dr. EASLY. On behalf of Treasure Valley Community College, thank you Congressman Wyden.

The Japanese-American culture center consisting of a museum, a multimedia center, and a multipurpose facility, will be located on the campus of Treasure Valley Community College, in Ontario, OR.

This location will enhance the existing civic, educational, and cultural facilities of the county and will serve as a focal point which is accessible from Interstate 84 and Oregon State Highway 201.

Treasure Valley Community College is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and offers degrees in lower division college transfer and vocational programs. The college has faithfully served its service district for 25 years and presently has a headcount in excess of 4,600 students. The mission of Treasure Valley Community College is to provide lifelong educational opportunities with the community as both a resource and a beneficiary.

The museum in the Japanese-American cultural center will serve as a focal point promoting educational study of questions concerning censorship and the protection accorded all American citizens under the bill or rights. The exhibits in the museum would include photographs, artifacts, and the history of the Japanese in America from 1880's to the present. The major focus would serve as an educational tool for generations to come in understanding how

the Japanese were interned and to ensure the protection of the Constitution to every citizen regardless of race, color, or creed.

The multimedia center in the Japanese-American cultural center will be utilized for theatrical performances, concerts, recitals, films, slides, lectures, and cultural events. These performances will be educational and support the exhibits in the museum and provide cultural stimulus for the citizens of Malheur County. Treasure Valley Community College would expand its theater and fine arts to include Japanese theater, poetry, and literature.

The multipurpose center in the Japanese-American cultural center will provide an atmosphere for educational seminars, workshops, planning sessions, assemblies, and conferences. Topics to be covered are endless and include purpose and methods in rewriting our history books, Constitutional breach, protection under the Bill of Rights, and a review of President Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 9066. The center will further serve as a regional entertainment facility for our sister city, Sayama, Japanese-American Citizen's League, and the Obon Festival. Educational courses in Japanese language, customs, and culture will be offered.

The center will also serve as an information dissemination center throughout the entire Northwest. The Japanese-American culture center will serve many purposes, and will only be limited by the energies and imaginations of the people served. Thank you.

Chairman WYDEN. Doctor, thank you very much, and we'll also have some questions in a moment.

Fran McLean, we welcome you, and know of your long-standing interest in this, and appreciate your testimony.

TESTIMONY OF FRANCIS R. McLEAN, PUBLISHER, ARGUS OBSERVER, ONTARIO, OR

Mr. MCLEAN. I do thank you, Congressman Wyden, for being at the hearing here today. My testimony will be in three parts. First, to show the need for the Japanese-American culture center in Ontario. Second, to give some recorded historical information from 1942, and third, to state the harmonious intermingling of the Malheur County population.

First, Americans of Japanese descent, whether citizens or aliens, were definitely part of the American population during World War II, and were not subjects of Japan. They were, however, treated as a potential enemy as a nationality and not as individuals, as were the Germans and the Italians. This is a direct violation of the American way of life. Freedom for all.

"The immigrants from Japan who settled in this country raised civic-minded, law-abiding families, and became doers and leaders in our communities. They have enriched our way of life more than any of us can ever say." These are not my words, but those of Richard Nixon, 1969, in marking the 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration.

Building a Japanese-American culture center to record history and to make sure the American Government never again violates a group of our peoples' rights is an important part of the restoration bill.

To record this history does not in any way take away from honoring all Americans who fought, and those who were wounded and killed during World War II. We have honored and should always continue to honor those brave patriotic men and women. That would include the 30,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in the U.S. military in Europe and the Pacific.

The second point I wish to make is to give you a little information of how eastern Oregon and western Idaho viewed the internment and Free Zone treatment of the Japanese-Americans.

Malheur County was a Free Zone where vital food crops were in danger of nearly total loss due to a lack of farm labor. Consequently, Japanese-Americans were urged to come to Malheur County. There was, of course, opposition. However, many people, including the Eastern Oregon Observer, now the Argus Observer publisher, Elmo Smith, led the crusade to bring Japanese-Americans to the area.

Smith later served in the U.S. military, was Ontario mayor, and later the Governor of the State of Oregon. His son, Denny Smith, is now Oregon's representative to Congress in district 5. The following is part of an editorial written by Elmo Smith, published on May 21, 1942.

The Japanese are coming in. Our farming communities need them. As workers they will be self-supporting and not a burden on taxpayers. They can save agriculture millions of dollars in crops. Beet and field work is certainly no soft vacation to offer them, and there is no earthly reason why they should be Government-supported with labor at a premium for the duration.

End of that part of that quote.

In 1942 the U.S. press almost never used the term "Japanese-American," and seldom used the term "Japanese," but more often used the prejudiced four-letter word to refer to Americans of Japanese descent. However, I was delighted to find that the local media of that era using the term Japanese-American more often than the other media did.

Many stories were published in the front pages of the Eastern Oregon Observer showing the movement of Japanese-Americans in this area. The following words come from the Thursday, June 11, 1942, Eastern Oregon observer.

Japanese evacuees to Malheur County to ease the labor shortage were substantially increased with the arrival Monday of nearly 200 from the Portland center. Arrival of this group taxed to capacity of housing facilities of the FSA farm labor camp 5 miles south of Nyssa.

Satisfaction with the type of work being done by the Japanese in the fields has been expressed by the farmers. Many of them have stated that after several days experience they are the best thinners ever used in the county. On the other hand, many of the Japanese who were afraid to come to the county, have now asked permission to write others that conditions here were excellent in an effort to relieve still further the labor shortage and get friends away from the idleness of the evacuation centers.

End of that quote.

The third point I wish to make is that Ontario and neighboring communities were accepted—as Americans of Japanese descent, they were accepted as equals. The Japanese-Americans always demonstrated outstanding citizenship, participating in schools, community, and Government events and projects. They have integrated into our community very well. Japanese names are found on football and baseball rosters, on rally squads, debate teams, in

choir and band, and Japanese-Americans often hold class and student body offices. A proud group of people, most make every effort not to cause undue heartache for parents and families and stress good and outstanding citizenship.

In many areas, they are reluctant to push themselves forward. Preferring low-key involvement; standing back to let others take the lead and the limelight.

In Malheur county, there are many different religious beliefs. We have a blending of ethnic groups and of life styles. Here one finds no separate community for these groups as all are found working and living together in harmony.

However, there is still work to be done, and we can achieve a total partnership in the great American Dream.

Mike Masaoka had a larger vision, a vision that said being an American was a matter of mind and heart, not of skin color and ethnic origin. Thousands of other Japanese-Americans agreed with him. It is to their eternal credit that they loved the United States—with all its faults—enough to fight and die for the rights and privileges that had been denied them.

These are the words of Mike Mansfield, Ambassador of the United States of America in Tokyo.

President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights termed the imprisoning of Japanese-Americans as, "The most striking interference since slavery with the right to physical freedom."

Let the flag wave one more time for me must be the feeling of many of the Japanese-Americans. That is a feeling of all of us that have been working on this project. We know how important it is, and the more we work on the project, the more we know how important it is. Thank you.

[Mr. McLean's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you very much, and let me say that your statement is very helpful. I want to commend all the panel members for what I think are outstanding presentations.

I would have more questions if there was a little more time, but I have one for each of you, and let us move right to it.

Mr. Kirby, you've been in Washington, DC, recently meeting with a variety of governmental officials about the project. There were two questions that I had. In your visits and your discussions with Government officials did you find any similar projects with the kind of agriculture focus and the things you emphasized anywhere else in the country?

Mr. KIRBY. At the time of our visit, we deliberately asked people who might be in the middle of other projects that might be pending. I'm talking Representative Norm Mineta. I don't believe that he mentioned that there were ongoing projects in California. Senator Inouye's office mentioned the possibility of a project in Hawaii.

But as part of something that's already in existence, Mike Mosaoka mentioned the possibility to go for broke, 442d Organization might possibly like to have a war memorial in Washington, DC.

But anything that has a rural connotation, that which talks about the Japanese-Americans, first of all, moving into a Free Zone as has happened here, their help in establishing the type of strong farm economy and bringing about the techniques of farming that have been established in this valley that have been transferred to

other parts of our Nation, there is no such project to my knowledge.

Chairman WYDEN. That is very helpful. I know of no such project either, and I think that will clearly be one of the key issues as this bill is implemented, and the commission begins to consider various ideas and approaches.

The only other question I had for you is what was the reaction generally to your proposal, as you met with people in Washington, DC, and national officials?

Mr. KIRBY. Overwhelmingly in support. We did visit with the entire northwest delegation, and, as you well know, that's a good number of folks, as well as certain members from California and Hawaii, and visiting with the Washington office of the Japanese-American Citizens League.

I would tell you that the support that we received actually overwhelmed us. We felt as though we would find Niseiers among the group, and there were not.

Chairman WYDEN. Very good. Dr. Easly, if you would tell us what programs and activities are now at the college relating to Japanese language and cultural studies, and then tell us how they might be expanded should this proposal go forward?

Dr. EASLY. Well, at this time, we've had Japanese as a language course, and there have been history courses too, that have been offered, comparative history.

Chairman WYDEN. So, at this point you have two tracks for programs here, language and history courses.

Dr. EASLY. That's right. With the proposal of the center, we would hope to include theater, poetry, and literature.

Chairman WYDEN. Very good. That would be a total of five separate courses that would then be a part of the new expanded program.

Dr. EASLY. Yes.

Chairman WYDEN. How would you see expansion going forward? Would you set up a new department, or would these courses be integrated into the existing departments you have at the University?

Dr. EASLY. It would probably depend on the popularity. As far as integrating, it would be much easier initially, and hopefully it would end up being something that we would have to have a separate department for. With the enthusiasm and participation, I would predict that would happen.

Chairman WYDEN. At some point you would have a separate department?

Dr. EASLY. Yes.

Chairman WYDEN. Mr. McLean, you gave several very helpful examples about how the local community was receptive to Japanese-Americans who came to the area during and after World War II. The one question I had was what your thoughts were as to why that was the case. It seems that this community really stood out in terms of being receptive, friendly, and warm, and stood out dramatically. I would be interested in knowing for the record, why you think Ontario was special in that regard?

Mr. MCLEAN. Well, what I can tell by the bound volumes—I've only been here for 20 years, and I wasn't here at that time—is probably a couple of factors. One factor was a dire need of labor,

period, farm labor. When there is a need, I think your hearts open up a little bit more sometimes, so I think that possibly is part of the factor. Part of the factor is that there were Japanese-American families living here prior to that, many years. Then there were some that moved in before they ended up in internment camps, and then others that came in directly from the camps to swell that population at that time. So, I think that would probably be the best reason for it.

Also, I should add that there was a mix of nationalities to some degree at that time, and I think that always helps people understand how we all can live together very well a little bit easier.

Chairman WYDEN. I sense particularly that second factor was critical, because I knew that there had been Japanese-American citizens here, and my sense was that the community would see day in and day out how much those Japanese-Americans contributed to the community in every respect. Then when somebody suggested that they weren't patriotic, the community said that's just not true. We see them in our community, we see them helping, and we see them contributing.

Mr. MCLEAN. Right; as a matter of fact, in reading those articles, you find that in Utah and Idaho, especially with those Governors, there was a resistance, where the resistance was not here. They were fighting that resistance that they were putting up.

I'd like to add just the thought that I understand that there are 10 Japanese students registered here this fall, from Japan. So, there are things happening.

Chairman WYDEN. Well, you all have been very helpful. Your testimony has been excellent, and I just want to assure you as you leave and we bring on our next panel that I'm going to be working very, very closely with each of you in the community on this because I think it has great potential.

Our next panel will be Dr. Tom Crouch, chairman, Department of Social and Cultural History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Doctor, we welcome you, and we are just delighted to have you here in Oregon as curator of the Smithsonian exhibit dedicated to the period, and to related questions of civil liberties and constitutional rights. It is an honor to have you here and to know of your interest. We will make your prepared remarks part of our record in their entirety, and we welcome you for any statement that you care to make.

TESTIMONY OF DR. TOM CROUCH, CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, DC

Dr. CROUCH. Thank you Congressman Wyden, and I wanted to thank the folks here in Ontario who arranged the visit, and so on, and so forth.

The role that Japanese-American citizens have played in the growth and development of Ontario makes it a very special place for anyone who's interested in the history of Asian Americans.

On October 1, 1987, the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution, opened a new exhibition commemorating the bicentennial of the constitution of the United States. We called it, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese-Americans and the U.S. Constitution," as you've heard several times today. The show attempts to lead the 4 million visitors who come to our museum every year to a better understanding of the fundamental meaning of the words of the Constitution, and to underscore the absolute necessity for citizen involvement in the defense of civil liberties.

In putting together an exhibition that would commemorate the anniversary of the Constitution, the folks at the museum, all of us, faced a difficult problem. We wanted to find a subject that would help our visitors achieve an understanding of constitutional issues that have a personal and human level. It was for that reason, more than any other, that we chose to tell the story of Japanese-Americans on this occasion.

Japanese-Americans are a people who, after all, suffered the gravest injustice at the hands of their Government but who refused to give up on the system, on the framework of Government, on the Constitution. They struggled ever since 1945 to correct the injustice, to obtain the rights guaranteed to all Americans by the Constitution.

The exhibition is a case study in that process of constitutional decisionmaking, and citizen action within the framework of the Constitution. We tell the story of Japanese-Americans from the beginning to the end in the show.

We begin with a discussion of immigration from Japan to the United States and both the mainland and the islands in the late 19th century and into the 20th century. We talk about the special problems that all Asian immigrants to the United States faced at that time. We also talked about the extent which they were able to overcome those difficulties, to some extent at any rate, build lives for themselves, and become important members of their communities.

We carry the story all the way through the decision to intern Japanese-Americans during the war, and we do it with a variety of artifacts, objects that we gathered, things that relate to life in the camps, to life in the prewar Japanese-American community. But obviously, our focus is on the wartime decision, and on life in the camps.

We also have a section in the exhibition that is devoted to the men and women, roughly 30,000 of them, Japanese-Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces during the Second World War, in the 442d Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service. We focus on their role in this very important constitutional story as well.

Japanese-Americans return from the camps to take their place in American society after 1945, but they refuse to forget the injustice of the war years. The struggle to focus attention on the indignity and hardship suffered by American citizens at the hands of their own Government, and to remove the old barriers of racial prejudice and discrimination has been long and difficult, and continues to this day.

There has been much progress. Race is no longer a barrier to citizenship, and the injustice suffered by Japanese-Americans has been recognized by Presidential proclamation to the recommendations for prestigious Presidential Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment, and by the recent action of the Congress and the President.

In spite of that progress, the fundamental issues and problems remain. Two centuries ago, James Madison remarked that the Constitution is the document in which "every word decides . . . a question between power and liberty."

The experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry has demonstrated the truth of his words. To their struggle, to ensure that all Americans understand the importance of extending the safeguards and protections of the Constitution to every citizen, regardless of race or creed.

They have moved all of us a bit closer to that more perfect union, envisioned by the framers of the Constitution.

As to the question of what role the Smithsonian Institution might be able to help play, help any local community interested in preparing museum exhibitions or anything of that sort, with regard to this story, there are some things we could do. The exhibition that visitors see now was designed for that space, and it's a semi-permanent installation. It will be there for at least 5 years, probably considerably longer.

It really wasn't built to be taken down and moved anywhere. In spite of that, we could help local communities by putting them in touch with individuals and organizations who have artifacts, and other source of materials that relate to the national story of the Japanese-American community.

During the course of our work on the exhibition, we did a great deal of filming and oral history and that sort of thing. That material could be made available to communities who were interested in either using our things packaged, as it were, or in producing their own materials, based on things that we put together, or on a mix of our materials and new things that they might want to do themselves. During the course of work on the exhibition we put together a fine catalogue of images relating to the Japanese-American story to be found in libraries and archives from coast to coast. That sort of thing I think, is of the kind of thing that would be of major help to anyone doing this kind of an exhibition.

In short, we would be willing, within the limits of our time and resources, and so on, and so forth, to give all the help that we could to community folks interested in doing something with the story.

I would just like to close my remarks with a note of congratulations to those citizens and organizations in the Ontario area who put so much thought and hard work into planning for a Japanese-American cultural center.

I've read their proposal, and I'm most impressed by it, and, in my view, their effort deserves all the support it can get.

[Dr. Crouch's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Doctor, thank you very much, and let me just ask you a few questions because your testimony is so complete that it touches on most of the things that I was interested in.

We now move to the implementation in the stage of the legislation. What are the most practical ways to have the legislation implemented in your view, so as to get these projects funded and off the ground as quickly as possible?

Dr. CROUCH. That's a difficult question. It's my understanding that the legislation calls for the creation of a panel of folks who will put together, in fact, those plans, and make the basic decisions as to which projects will receive support, and so on, and so forth.

I think, in fact, that the plan spelled out, in the legislation, is probably the best way to go. I've kept my eye as well on other community organizations and other sorts of projects of this sort. Most of which we heard about a few minutes ago.

I certainly think Ontario is right up there with the best of them.

Chairman WYDEN. What do you think are the attractive features of the Ontario approach, as you reviewed it? What strikes you as attractive aspects of it?

Dr. CROUCH. Most particular is the emphasis that they put on the local situation. It's one of the things that makes Ontario, for a historian, such an interesting place.

The fact that conditions really were significantly different here as the war was winding down, coming into '1945, and it's just an intriguing, and more than that, an important story, I think.

One of the things that attracted the Smithsonian to the Japanese-American story in the first place, was the fact that it was so quintessentially American. I think you can see all of those factors that appealed to us working here in the area. So it's that local emphasis, I guess.

Chairman WYDEN. What kind of projects would you like to see funded by the commission and under the legislation? You have worked in this field and have had the exhibit, and I know you are as familiar, essentially, as anyone. What kinds of projects seem to you to be the best ones at this point?

Dr. CROUCH. Well, from my point of view, and it's only my point of view, I hope they'll fund some things that are aimed at the study, the treatment, exhibition of local communities, local areas, particular situations.

There are so many folks in the Ontario area who have been here for a long time, and really have important stories to tell. Stories that not only have importance in terms of the local situation, but genuinely national importance. Things that would help us to understand—the people who went through this experience.

Chairman WYDEN. I'm not a historian, and you are, but I gather that oral histories would be one of the best ways quickly to do what you're talking about.

Dr. CROUCH. Exactly.

Chairman WYDEN. I sense your point about the local emphasis is also particularly important. Over time, we have now gotten some general kinds of accounts.

Dr. CROUCH. Sure.

Chairman WYDEN. But to really send the strongest possible message that discrimination won't be tolerated, it seems to me you have to look at local communities.

Dr. CROUCH. Exactly.

Chairman WYDEN. Doctor, you've been helpful. I hope that I can come by in Washington, DC, and visit with you, and have a cup of coffee, and talk about these efforts as they go along.

But you have made a long journey, and I just want you to know that Oregonians are very appreciative.

Dr. CROUCH. Thank you sir.

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you very much.

Our next panel, president of Snake River Chapter, Japanese-American Citizens League. I hope I'm pronouncing this correctly—George Iseri please come forward.

Mr. ISERI. Iseri, Iseri, anything. Some call me Old Series.

Chairman WYDEN. All right. I'll just say welcome, and also Kathy Jordan on this panel as well. We welcome all of you. We will make your prepared remarks part of the record. Let's begin with you Mr. Harano.

TESTIMONY OF RANDY HARANO, PRESIDENT, SNAKE RIVER CHAPTER, JAPANESE-AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Mr. HARANO. Thank you. It would seem that the two most often asked questions about the proposed Japanese-American Cultural Center in Ontario, OR are: First, why should there be a memorial for the Japanese-Americans that were interned during the Second World War? Second, why do you want to build it in Ontario, OR?

I will attempt in my statement to give you the historical background to make it clear, why there is a need for a memorial, and why locating it in Ontario is the correct choice.

Among the documents which form the philosophical and legal foundations of our Nation, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, no idea is more basic in the origin and development of American history, traditions, and statutes than the equality of all persons before the law. Our Nation's history leads us to the inescapable conclusion that in the opinion of the Founding Fathers, true Americanism means an unbending insistence by each individual that any government accord him equality of treatment before its laws and refrain from unjustly violating certain unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The first immigrants from Japan landed in San Francisco Harbor in May 1869. All immigration ceased in 1924 with the passage of an Immigration Act that barred entry to Asians. In 1940 the Japanese-American population was 126,000-plus, 88.5 percent of which were living in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Agriculture was the leading vocation for Japanese-Americans on the Pacific coast, with 43 percent engaged in farming, and 26 percent of the gainfully employed working in related activities. In California, Japanese-American farmers produced 50 to 90 percent of some fruits and vegetables despite operating only 4 percent of the farmlands. Envy led to hate and the prevailing anti-Asian animosities became focused on the Japanese.

In November 1941, Curtis B. Munson, a State Department special investigator, submitted a confidential report to the President and the Secretary of State, which certified that the Japanese-Ameri-

cans possessed an extraordinary degree of loyalty to the United States, and immigrant Japanese were of no danger.

Many people who are unfamiliar with the historical background have assumed that the attack on Pearl Harbor was the cause of, or justification for, the mass incarceration of Japanese-Americans on the west coast. But that assumption is contradicted by one glaring fact. The Japanese in Hawaii were not similarly incarcerated. Such a massive injustice could not have occurred without the prior history of prejudice and legal discrimination.

The war became the perfect pretext for the anti-Japanese groups to accomplish the goal they had been seeking for over 40 years. The truth was no person of Japanese ancestry living in the United States, or territories of Alaska or Hawaii, was every charged with or convicted of espionage or sabotage.

On February 19, 1942, shortly after the entry of the United States into World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. He did so despite the objections from Attorney General Francis Biddle, who felt it was unconstitutional, and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who felt it was unnecessary. This allowed the wholesale uprooting and imprisonment of practically all Pacific coast residents of Japanese ancestry, without a shred of evidence of misconduct, or disloyalty, and without even the pretense of a trial.

This monstrous violation of the most basic of American traditions and laws relating to human freedom, was a culmination of four decades of anti-Japanese propaganda of the most vile, outrageous, and pervasive sort.

Beginning in March 1942, General John DeWitt, military commander of the Western Defense Command, ordered all persons of Japanese ancestry in California, plus parts of Arizona, Oregon, and Washington, to turn themselves in at temporary detention camps near their homes.

Dewitt's detention orders were ostensibly for the purpose of protecting the west coast against sabotage and espionage. But babies, orphans, adopted children, the infirmed, and bedridden elderly were also imprisoned.

There were 15 temporary detention camps scattered throughout Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington. They were mostly county fairgrounds, race tracks, and livestock exhibition halls hastily converted into detention camps with barbed wire fences, searchlights, and guard towers. Living quarters consisted of horse stalls, some with manure still inside. People were forced to leave their homes with only a few days' notice, and could take only what they could carry with them.

In June 1942, the United States Navy won a decisive victory at the Battle of Midway and the tide of war shifted in favor of the Allies. Japan was no longer militarily capable of attacking the west coast or even Hawaii. Even so, at great cost and despite the critical shortage of materials, the Government built 10 mass detention camps in isolated areas. A total of about 120,000 Japanese-Americans were ultimately detained.

Despite the way their country had treated them, immediately after the War Department's decision to create a combat team consisting of loyal Japanese-American citizens, 3,500 Nisei evacuees

volunteered to serve their country. During World War II, the 442d became famous as the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in American military history.

Some 33,000 Japanese-Americans served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II. Six thousand in the Pacific theater served their country as translators, interpreters, interrogators, and cave-flushers. Nisei members of the Military Intelligence Service were credited with preserving thousands of American lives and millions of dollars in materials as a result of their contribution to the war effort.

After the war's end when the evacuees were allowed to return to their homes in California, Oregon, and Washington, they were met with many acts of vigilante violence and the agitation of pressure groups determined to keep the Japanese-Americans out permanently. Reconstructing their lives was not easy, and for some it was too late. Elderly pioneers had lost everything they worked all their lives for, and were too old to start anew. Many American born had their education disrupted and could no longer afford to go to college, because family support became their responsibility.

Not only were direct losses sustained, but long-lasting psychological damages resulted. Families disintegrated under the prison-like conditions, and individuals became disoriented and embittered. Most importantly, Japanese-Americans suffered the indignity of being falsely imprisoned by their own Government.

Enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, acknowledges the fundamental injustice of the evacuation. It provides an apology on behalf of the people of the United States, a public education fund, restitution to those individuals who were incarcerated, and discourages the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties in the future, while making more credible any declaration of concern by the United States over violations of human rights committed by other Nations.

The Japanese-American cultural center that is proposed for the Treasure Valley Community College campus in Ontario, would serve as a permanent reminder and educational facility so that the injustices that occurred will never be forgotten or repeated in this great country of ours. The museum exhibits will serve to promote a greater understanding of the importance of extending the safeguards and protections of the Constitution to every citizen regardless of race, color, or creed.

The first permanent residents of Japanese ancestry in Malheur County arrived in 1909. These were true pioneers with visions of building a better life for themselves and their families. By 1940, the Treasure Valley was home to about 15 families of Japanese ancestry.

During the 2-week period of voluntary relocation of coastal areas, because this was a Free Zone, many Japanese-Americans who had family or friends in the Treasure Valley chose to settle here.

On May 21, 1942, a group of 15 evacuees left the Portland Army Assembly Center for seasonal agricultural work in Malheur County. So well did this pilot program succeed, that subsequently, 10,000 evacuees would venture out from the barbed wire compounds to help harvest the Earth's bounty.

In 1945, Secretary of Interior Ickes announced that all detention camps would be closed within 1 year. Evacuee families were allotted $25 in cash, a ticket, and enough money for food for each member of the family enroute to their destination.

Unlike the discrimination, terrorism, and hardship that greeted those who chose to return to the coastal areas from which they had been displaced, those who chose to settle in the Treasure Valley found their Caucasian neighbors, for the most part, to be compassionate and accepting. Elmo Smith, then Mayor of Ontario, and subsequently Governor of Oregon, was instrumental in making the Japanese-American newcomers welcome and actively sought housing and jobs for those in need. As a result, the county's Japanese-American population grew to more than 5,000, and has become an integral part of the community.

Ontario with its rich Japanese-American cultural heritage and longstanding tradition of implementing the American ideal of equal opportunity for all, thus is the community best suited to the concept of the proposed Japanese-American Cultural Center. Thank you.

[Mr. Harano's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you for an exceptionally well researched and informed testimony. We'll have some questions in just a moment.

Mr. Iseri. I'll have to get you one of those microphones, as well.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE ISERI, OWNER, ISERI TRAVEL AGENCY, ONTARIO, OR

Mr. ISERI. Good to see you, Congressman, and welcome to Ontario.

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you.

Mr. ISERI. This is a report hastily made by a sleepy man in the last day or so, about a couple, family number 17,200, as we were known in that way, all during the time we were in camp.

I was born in the State of Washington in 1920. During the prewar years we lived in a tent in the Auburn area, which is near Seattle, also known as the White River Valley.

On December 7, a neighbor came over and told me about Japan attacking Pearl Harbor in the Philippines. With disbelief I turned on the radio to learn that it was true. On this night, my father, Matahichi, was arrested by FBI and we were not to have him with us again until June 1942, when he was sent to the Pine Dale Assembly Center, near Fresno, CA.

About May 1, 1942, my wife and I were newlyweds. We were living in a small apartment in Kent, WA. The Green River separates the Kent area from the Auburn area. My brother Tom and some friends woke us up very early and said if you want to be with the family, you've got to move now. So, we packed up what we could, and went across the river to stay at our parents' home. It took us about 10 minutes to pack, I guess.

We couldn't pack our furniture and personal belongings. We left them for our landlord to take care of. We would have been evacuated 2 weeks before the rest of our family if we had not moved, and we didn't know whether we'd be together or not.

Shortly after the evacuation notices were posted in the camp area, we were not allowed to cross the Green River to go to Kent for any reason. We banked there, so we had to have someone else take care of our banking for us.

Other business activities in Kent were also handled in this manner. By this time a curfew on all Japanese was in effect, including citizens. You couldn't be away from your place of work or home from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m., and you couldn't go into the restricted area.

On May 23, 1942, we were notified, or I should correct that, before that we were notified that all Japanese report to the Auburn railroad tracks siding to board a train to an assembly center. We were limited to baggage we were allowed to take, and it was recommended we dispose of our other personal property, including vehicles.

I was working for my brother at that time in the wholesale and retail petroleum business. We had to sell all of our stock in vehicles as we were not to return again until after the war.

A brother, Mishu, known as Mike, who volunteered for the service in February 1942, thought he could get an emergency furlough and come home and clean things up for us after we left, but the furlough was refused as he was Japanese, and he would not be allowed to be there, even if he was in uniform

We left Auburn at a milk-train speed to Fresno, CA. We were transported by bus to Pine Dale Assembly Center. It took almost 2 days riding in musty old rail cars.

Our first chore in ankle-deep dust was to fill our straw mattresses for army cots. Next we hung Army blankets in our walled room of about 200 square feet, so that we would have a little privacy, as another couple was sharing the room with us.

The walls separating the families on both sides of us were single wallboard, not plaster board, wallboard, about three-eighths of an inch Above the wallboard was completely open, making it possible for us to hear almost anything that went on next door. The toilets were 6 or 8 seated outhouses with infestation of various pests. I need not say any more there, I don't think.

No partition or privacy was provided in the outhouses. The shower room provided no privacy inside and people taking a shower were visible every time the doors were open.

My first job was as a store clerk at the C2 mess hall, where two of us were responsible for providing ingredients to the cooks.

My monthly wage was $12. I recall being told that two dozen eggs to 10 gallons of milk was the proper amount for scrambled eggs. So, the internees drank their scrambled eggs.

There were guard towers all around the camp which were enclosed with fencing. The temperature was about 100 degrees with no shade. Fortunately those who had time could go shower several times a day to keep cool.

We soaked newspapers with water, blocked up our beds, and tried to sleep on the floor, on the newspapers, for relief from the heat at night. To my knowledge there were complaints, but no big demonstrations of violence during our stay there.

My wife was pregnant, expecting in January, but fortunately she was able to withstand the heat and discomfort of the camp. Our

parents miraculously were able to survive in the extreme heat. About August 20, all Pine Dale internees were bussed and railroaded to the Tule Lake, WRA Camp in northern California. Here we found conditions a little better, as we were provided our own one-room accommodations and a heater, as the area was very cold during the winter.

My monthly wage here as a senior marketing specialist in the vegetable packing plant was $19. I was in charge of the office and its staff. It was extremely cold and snowy that winter. Our son was born during the frigid winter after my wife endured about 48 hours of labor.

In late 1942, the U.S. Government asked us to complete loyalty oaths. This caused quite a commotion and many internees refused to complete the forms, or would not swear allegiance to the United States. We submitted our forms with affirmative answers, although we, like all others, wonder how the Government could ask us questions when they had taken away our constitutional rights.

We left Tule Lake on February 28, 1943, for Weiser, ID. We were familiar with the area because several packers from the Kent and Auburn area used to come here to pack lettuce and ship lettuce out of here.

My brother Tom had to obtain a work contract for me. Our accommodation in Weiser was an old two-room cabin, about 200 square feet, without a bathroom, but with a two-burner hot lid, of which only one side was operable, and a small kitchen-trash burner, for heat.

The bathroom facilities were a block away in a separate building. The weather here was as frigid as it was in Tule Lake. During mid-winter there was no work available except for pruning trees. The going hourly pay was 65 cents per hour. But soon there was potato seed cutting available. So, we did some of that. We were fortunate in getting a share crop contract with Charles on the Oregon side, so I went to work on the crop farm for the first time.

We raised potatoes, onions, and sugar beets. They provided my parents and brother with a comfortable home, and treated us like a member of their family. Although I was inexperienced, they taught me how to do things required of a row-cropper.

Two brothers, Mon and Dan, were offered mechanic's jobs at Cable Chevrolet in Ontario. Lee and Mom Cables, as we used to call her, treated them like family. During the war there were about 5 or 6 full time Japanese-Americans employed at Cables. I also worked for them during the winter months. People like Lee Cable boosted our morale and made life much easier for us in Ontario. I recall one incident very clearly when an Army officer came for repairs to his car, and refused to have a Jap work on it. Lee Cables was out of home and said, we don't have any Japs here, and we don't want your business, so get on your way. Something like that.

In late 1943, we moved to Ontario from Weiser for convenience sake and also because most of our family was already here. Late Elmo Smith was the mayor of Ontario when we came. His family was the first family, I believe, to accept a Nisei young lady as a house girl. This, of course, led to the opening of many more doors for us.

I understand that the Japanese Association of the Valley deeded their community hall next to the airport to the city, the city of Ontario for the duration. The city in turn, leased it to the Navy, who used it as a naval air training center. This is what I heard. After the war the city deeded the property back to the owners. I'm not sure of the details, but I'm giving it as I heard it. Jess Adrien was well known to us, too. I was told that he was a prominent real estate broker when we came here, and he actively solicited listing of farms so that we could purchase property here.

He wasn't popular with some of the residents here, but he was determined to help our people, and did so until his death. Jess Adrien also originated the east side business area. I was one of his first tenants, along with other Japanese-Americans. It was in late 1946 that he built the East Side Cafe. Next to it was our radio and appliance store, then the East Side Drug Store. He invested his money against odds, but through his determination and his encouragement to his tenants, the area has been active to this day.

Another booster for us on the east side was General Plaza, who built the Plaza Tavern and Hotel. These people were truly supporters and morale boosters for us during the time when we were still wondering what would happen to us. Many other business people in Ontario and the area were extremely good to us. Some businesses were afraid that they would be criticized and lose business of their other customers, so they didn't welcome us. We had many supporters throughout Treasure Valley, however. However, we decided that overall, Ontario was the best place for us.

My brother Tom was associated with the Jake and Rogers farming and shipping firm, which was operating here in Ontario and which still operates today.

My brother Mon, who worked for Cable Chevrolet, had to continue serving some of his insurance clients during the war from his home. He established his insurance office after the war, and continued to operate until his death in 1966.

I purchased his business, which is still operating today, and I'm pleased to say that the business has grown steadily. We are one of the oldest agents in Ontario, and a large portion of our business is obtained from non-Japanese of the area.

In 1952, my brother and I established the Iseri Travel Agency. I obtained the business in 1963, and we have grown to two agencies. There's one in Caldwell ID, with a total of 10 full-time employees. Our life in Ontario has been fruitful, happy, and a successful one. To be accepted as neighbors in any area we choose, to raise our children without them incurring the unpleasantness during our youth, to be elected to serve in a public office, plus many other privileges of an American, that's the way it has been in Ontario in the Treasure Valley for us.

In spite of the evacuation experience, we were allowed to reside in this area and live as neighbors to anyone who might be a neighbor. We owe our thanks to many people who welcomed us and helped us in many ways. I think that we have a unique community in Ontario and the Treasure Valley. Perhaps 5,000 Japanese-Americans came here during the war when it was not possible to return to our homes. Perhaps 2,000 of us remain here after the war. I don't believe there is any other community that was in the Free

Zone that could claim to have that large of a percentage of Japanese-American evacuees in the community. Thank you.

Chairman WYDEN. Well, thank you very much Mr. Iseri. One of the things that I find so important in your testimony is that it makes it clear that injustice is not impersonal. It's very personal, it's very cruel, and it's very wrong. I just want you to know that I'm going to refer again and again to your personal account in this effort to bring the center here, because I think it is just very helpful to have.

Mr. ISERI. I could talk about this for many hours, and I'd like to make a statement here that there's no one who didn't experience what we did who could come close to feeling what we went through. Thank you.

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you very much.

Ms. Jordan, we welcome you and thank you for all your help. We'll make your remarks part of the record, and if you could summarize from your key views, that would be helpful.

TESTIMONY OF KATHY M. JORDAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Ms. JORDAN. I shall do that. Thank you for coming here today. I come before you today to testify at this hearing in two capacities. First, as the executive director of the Treasure Valley Community College Foundation, and second as the designated representative of Janice Larsen, who is the president of the Oregon Division of the American Association of University Women. I am the community area representative on the Oregon board.

Let me begin on behalf of the foundation. When Treasure Valley Community College was founded 25 years ago, foresighted individuals in the Treasure Valley also founded the foundation as a nonprofit Oregon Corporation. Its initial primary focus was to provide scholarship funds for Treasure Valley Community College students. However, the foundation also played a prominent role in procuring the funding for the construction of the Weese Building in which we are located today.

Through contributions from numerous residents through the years and astute fiscal management on the part of the board, the foundation has developed nearly $400,000 worth of assets. In 1988, approximately $21,000 of interest from these assets was utilized for student scholarships to this institution.

As the foundation enters its 26th year of operation, significant changes have taken place. The board has undertaken a revision of their bylaws, adoption of short- and long-range goals and a mission statement. I would like to share the mission statement with you.

The foundation's purpose shall be to receive and administer gifts, grants, and bequests and raise funds for the general benefit and enhancement of educational opportunities available at Treasure Valley Community College in order to compliment the college in—

(1) providing student financial assistance
(2) promoting excellence in faculty and development
(3) assisting in obtaining capital improvements
(4) pursuing enrichment experiences for students, faculty and community.

At a joint meeting of the foundation board, college board, and the Japanese-American Memorial Committee on August 15, it was the consensus that the multimedia center which we shall aggres-

sively assist in seeking the funding for is the first phase of the construction of the Japanese-American memorial. The foundation stands ready to assist in the private fund raising effort to raise $1.25 million for this construction.

My second capacity as representative for the Oregon Division of the American Association of University Women, let me briefly acquaint you with our organization. One of the oldest and largest women's organizations with a national membership of nearly 200,000 women, AAUW is open to any person holding a baccalaureate or higher degree. The AAUW Educational Foundation allocated over $1 million in grants last year from their $60 million endowment. The AAUW promotes equity for women, education, and self-development over the lifespan, and positive societal change through the tenant of study and action.

In 1986, the association adopted censorship as one of its focus issues. In concurrence with this theme, the Ontario branch of AAUW sponsored a community forum spotlighting the Japanese-American internment. Randy Harano, David Maeda, Joe Saito, George Iseri, and Mam Wakasugi, discussed the direct and indirect effects of the internment on their lives as well as touching on the constitutional and censorship issues. A copy of the press coverage from this meeting is included in my testimony.

As a result of this forum, the Ontario branch of AAUW submitted a resolution to the Oregon Division Convention in April 1988, stating that the Oregon Division of AAUW move to end censorship of Oregon textbooks by lobbying for inclusion of information pertaining to Japanese-American internment.

The resolution was unanimously adopted. The education area representative, cultural area representative, and myself, the community area representative, on the Oregon board, met in July 1988 with the full board, and further developed the concept. It is our goal that the AAUW Educational Foundation provide a grant to the Oregon division to research and write the text for textbooks. The Oregon division board also took the following resolution to the Regional Conference of the Mountain Pacific Region at the University of Hawaii in July.

Resolved, the censoring of textbooks and other teaching materials concerning the Japanese-American internment during the Second World War be corrected by working for inclusion of appropriate information in textbooks and other teaching material. And be it further resolved that moneys for educational purposes in the reparations bill being allocated by the U.S. Government be used for appropriate recognition of the Japanese-American internment.

It is my expectation that when the 34th Biennial Convention of the American Association of University Women convenes in Washington, DC, in June 1989, that the organization will embrace a resolution for all textbooks used within American schools, to include the Japanese-American internment during World War II, and an endorsement of the use of allocated funds from the Federal legislation for educational purposes specifically targeted to Ontario's Japanese-American Culture Center. Let us learn from history and not be condemned to repeat it. Thank you.

[Ms. Jordan's statement, with attachments, may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you for an excellent statement. I'm going to be very brief in questions just because time is getting short.

Mr. Harano, you're president of the local Japanese-American Citizens League, and I think it would be very helpful to have on the record your comments with respect to the views of members of the Japanese-American community here about plans for the cultural center. Is it your belief that members of your organization are in support of the proposal, and perhaps you could elaborate on that?

Mr. HARANO. Yes; Congressman Wyden, our local chapter has offered its support. We have sent out questionnaires to our membership and have received 98 percent favorable response. We have also been in communication with the Pacific Northwest district, the Spokane, Seattle, Portland area. They are also aware of our project and are also in complete support.

Our intermountain district which our local chapter is a part of, from Salt Lake, ID, and us, is also in complete support of our project.

Chairman WYDEN. Very good. Mr. Iseri, I think that your personal account is just as I said, very helpful, and the only question I have is what personal significance would it have for you if there was the establishment of this center? At this point, having faced this terrible injustice, I think it would be helpful to know what the center would mean to you personally.

Mr. ISERI. My personal significance, to me, is the fact that I don't believe there's any place else in the country that has a similar community and it will be a recognition to the local people here of the type of supportive community we had, and honor them as well as being a memorial to the victims of evacuation.

I think personally that's the main thing. I don't think there's any place else that would be appropriate.

Chairman WYDEN. Very good. Ms. Jordan, I know you all have taken on a very ambitious fund raising effort with respect to the multimedia center and key part of this entire undertaking. What is your timeframe for the fundraising side that you project?

Ms. JORDAN. Assuming the foundation's role is a significant leadership one, and assuming that we aim toward a dedication of a multimedia center on the commemoration of President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which would be February 19, 1992, I would anticipate that the fund raising would need to begin within the next month or two to raise this $1.25 million. I would expect that we could have it complete in 16 to 17 months, probably by February 1991.

Chairman WYDEN. You've already begun to identify some of your potential funding sources, and the planning has begun already?

Ms. JORDAN. The foundation has undertaken the development of a significant corporate and foundation file for implementation of all six of their goals. The fifth goal is the building of a multimedia center on campus.

Chairman WYDEN. Well, very good. Your testimony has been excellent. Unless you all have anything further you'd like to add at this time, we'll excuse you.

Ms. JORDAN. Thank you.

Mr. HARANO. Thank you.

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you. Our next panel, Ms. Alice Trindle, regional marketing coordinator, Oregon Tourism Division; Mr. Richard Bertram, manager, Ontario Local Office, Oregon Employment Division; Bobbie Patterson, president and chief executive officer, Boise Chamber of Commerce; Gretchen Rust, executive vice president, Ontario Chamber of Commerce; Christine Krygier, director, Small Business Development Center here in Ontario; and Dr. Leonard Sherman, president of the Oregon Development Corp. Do we have enough chairs to go around?

Another advantage in Ontario is their long tables. I welcome all of you to the subcommittee today. We're missing Bobbie Patterson.

Ms. RUST. She regretted she could not be with us.

Chairman WYDEN. We will make any prepared testimony they would like part of the record. We welcome all of you. Because time is short, and we want to have some opportunity for questions, we're going to have to stick to the 5-minute limit. We'll make your prepared remarks a part of the record in their entirety. Why don't we begin with you Ms. Trindle.

TESTIMONY OF ALICE TRINDLE, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, STATE OF OREGON TOURISM DIVISION, LA GRANDE, OR

Ms. TRINDLE. Thank you Congressman. I'd like to just reiterate that I also brought along a copy of the Governor's letter, and that he did wish that to be read into the record. I do appreciate you doing that for us.

Please allow me to begin with an introduction. I'm the regional coordinator for the State of Oregon Tourism Division, which is under the Economic Development Department. In this role I have been asked to coordinate with communities in their efforts to develop the visitor industry in eastern Oregon. For the purposes of addressing this forum, I will primarily be addressing the potential for economic gains in the tourism industry as a result of developing a Japanese-American Cultural Center here in Ontario.

In assessing the economic posture of eastern Oregon, and for that matter, Oregon as a whole, it appears to me that we face three major liabilities. These liabilities seem to be shared among Oregon's major industries, and they are creating a stumbling block in our economic growth. In my view those liabilities are first, a lack of awareness in the domestic and international market of the variety and quality of products we produce, second, the seasonality of products we produce, and third, the lack of paid staff to carry those products to the marketplace.

In regards to the tourism industry in eastern Oregon, these liabilities continue to hold true. We have a wonderful natural product. Recreation abounds. We have a 52-mile long lake in Lake Owyhee with boating, fishing, and rock hounding. We have the deepest gorge on the face of this earth, Hell's Canyon. From the mountain ranges and wilderness of the Blues, the Wallowas, the Strawberrys, to the geological wonders of the Steen's Mountains, and the John Day Fossil Beds. In eastern Oregon there is no doubt we have existing recreational pursuits. We simply have very few developed destination tourist opportunities, largely due to those liabilities I mentioned earlier.

So, in addressing the potential for economic growth, by increasing visitors to the region due to the establishment of a Japanese-American cultural center, let me begin by examining how the project affects those liabilities.

First, the placement of the JACC in Ontario would not only receive national attention for the State of Oregon, but also heighten the growing awareness in the Japanese market. At this time, Oregon is only capturing a small portion of the Japanese traveler's time. While the commitment of Delta Airlines to Portland as their gateway city for trade has heightened the awareness for this State, very few travelers are staying in Oregon for more than several hours. Part of the problem of why they are not spending time in Oregon is that we are not offering attractions to lure them away from California. They have little awareness of what we have to offer. The JACC could act as a strong component in a Japanese traveler's package, and in other domestic markets, in an effort to keep visitors in Oregon for 3 or 4 days. Building attractions based on our cultural and historical background will serve to create a positive image of Oregon, in the minds of decisionmakers, that is so desperately needed in our marketing efforts.

Second, the JACC could serve to alleviate some of the seasonality involved in the current tourism traffic. By packaging other attractions throughout the State and region, such as the Oregon Trail National Monument, the John Day Fossil Beds, the High Desert Museum, the Oregon coast, and Portland, to name a few, we can target markets which are not purely tied into visits during the high summer season months. The key to changing seasonality of our visitors is found in providing attractions and packages which encourage purchase year round.

Third, in addressing both of the above we have touched on marketing. Successful marketing campaigns require creativity and people to carry them out. The JACC proposal addresses paid staff which can position the center as an integral part of the region and State plans.

In the final analysis, the above points, no matter how true, are not totally based on economic data on which one might go to the bank. Let's address for a moment revenue potential and jobs created if the JACC were to become a reality.

In visitor surveys conducted in six eastern Oregon counties during 1987, in which Malheur County participated, it was discovered that a clear majority of those surveyed spent an average of $75 per day on expenses. If we were to take the information compiled on potential or projected visitor counts for the Oregon Trail National Monument, to be located 70 miles northwest of Ontario just off interstate 84, and arbitrarily cut them in half, for an estimation of rubber tire visitors to the Japanese-American cultural center, we would arrive at a potential of 100,000 visitors per year.

Using the very raw figure then of $75 per day that a visitor spends, multiplying by the 100,000 visitors, we would realize over $7 million yearly return to this region simply due to the Japanese-American Cultural Center.

In the question of job creation, in addition to those described in the Japanese-American cultural center proposal, the methodology of arriving at an agreeable multiplier is highly debated. But, if we

were to again rely on the figures developed by the Oregon Trail National Monument, and simply again divide arbitrarily in half, we would arrive at between 265 to 187 FTE direct and indirect jobs.

In summary, it is my opinion that the Japanese-American cultural center would greatly add to our tourism product in Oregon. It soundly decreases our liabilities in achieving economic growth through the visitor industry. The JACC will provide jobs and return revenues to the local, State, and Federal coffers. The arbitrary cut of one-half the prospects for the Oregon Trail National Monument as a potential for the Japanese cultural center seem very realistic to me, if not conservative.

The Japanese-American Cultural Center should be constructed for cultural and historic reasons as a remembrance and reminder for all Americans and our visitors. But in addition, the Japanese-American culture center should be built for the tremendous economic impact it established, this establishment would have on this region and the State of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity.

[Ms. Trindle's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Ms. Trindle, thank you very much.

Mr. Bertram. Let us get you a microphone, I know our audience wants to hear this.

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD BERTRAM, MANAGER, ONTARIO LOCAL OFFICE, OREGON EMPLOYMENT DIVISION

Mr. BERTRAM. Although the fundamental purposes for the proposal are educational and cultural in nature, and it is hoped that those aspects alone would lead to favorable sentiment toward the concept, the center would also bring economic benefits to Malheur County.

These benefits would come in two phases. Construction, and later in the operation, use of the center. The project proposes a construction cost of $9,314,000 to take place over a 2-year period, including the design phase. Job creation is an inexact science. However, one U.S. Government study has concluded that for each $1 million spent on an institutional building construction project, an estimated 8.5267 direct construction jobs are needed. This should create 40 construction jobs during the 2-year period.

The same U.S. Government study indicated for each $1 million of construction cost, about 9.5526 of an indirect, or support jobs will be created. These jobs primarily are suppliers of the construction contractors. This would create an additional 44 indirect jobs.

The final portion of the construction phase would be the ripple effect of these additional jobs. In the institutional construction, the $1 million still holds. In the ripple effect, they look at 7.8947 for various other jobs, which would give us an estimate of 37 additional jobs in the ripple effect.

In summary, the 2-year construction phase could be expected to bring in about 121 temporary jobs. I don't mean temporary as part time, but temporary in the fact that they would last only for a 2-year period. In the completed facility, the published proposal spells out quite specifically the staff necessary to operate the museum and the multimedia center, and the Japanese garden as follows: The museum, with one director, one curator, and one secretary;

multimedia center with one executive director, one assistant director, one secretary, and one custodian; and two gardeners for the Japanese garden.

It is conceivable that the chamber of commerce may expand by an individual or two in order to increase their responsibility in coordinating the activities of the cultural center.

There is a need of students from Treasure Valley Community College to fill some regular duties under the work study, or to assist in special projects for conventions and catering to fairs, banquets, and so on. This could possibly provide about 25 part-time jobs for students throughout the year.

To review the ongoing operation at this facility we would expect to use about nine full-time, and about 27 part-time employees. Spin off operations, and again I will be infringing a little bit on my colleague's figures here, but we disagree a little bit I'm afraid, so I won't get into them too deep. But we're a little conservative. We estimate that visitors would bring in, outside visitors, excluding the local visitors, because that's dollars already in the community, but the outside would bring in we estimate about $1 million to $100,000. We estimate that would increase about 70 jobs, mostly part time in food beverage service, lodging, auto fuel and oil, and recreation area.

As the center becomes an established part of the region's culture, we would assume that Treasure Valley Community College would develop a larger music, art department, theater department, whatever, which would probably have some staff expansion in those areas. We didn't put a number on that. We felt that should be up to the college.

In conclusion, we felt that the economic benefits of the Japanese-American Culture Center would come in the form of 121 mostly full-time jobs during the 2-year construction phase, and 108 permanent jobs during the operational phase of the project, with about 24 percent of those estimated to be full-time jobs. Thank you.

[Mr. Bertram's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you very much. I note that your estimate is a little bit different than Ms. Trindle's. Both estimates are very impressive, I might add. Thank you both. Ms. Rust.

TESTIMONY OF GRETCHEN A. RUST, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ms. RUST. Congressman Wyden, on behalf of the chamber, thank you for coming to Ontario and holding this. Again, I apologize, Ms. Patterson was called out of town. We will have her testimony to insert into the record for you.

Fourteen years ago, the city of Ontario, OR, and Sayama, Japan outside of Osaka became sister cities. It was accomplished not by a formal organization but by businessmen of Ontario, Mr. George Iseri, and Mr. Bob Sullivan. Over the years, more than 200 visitors from Sayama, and many formal and informal groups from Ontario have exchanged visits and strengthened the relationship.

In July 1987, a delegation headed by Mayor Yoshikawa of Sayama, came to Ontario to invite its citizens to participate in ceremonies marking Sayama's status as a city of over 50,000 in

population. Twenty-two delegates headed by our Mayor Laurine Wrenn, and sister city chairperson, Judge Nita Bellows, traveled to Sayama to witness the investiture. On October 3, 1987, Mayor Wrenn spoke to the assembled citizens of the newly named city, Osakasayama-shi of the deep commitment to international understanding and to the on-going friendship between our two cities. Members of Prime Minister Nakasone's cabinet, presidents of neighboring prefectures and dignitaries from all of Japan, shared the stage with our lone woman. Many honors were accorded our group, and the ties of our relationship were forged stronger for sharing in this special day.

Also during our visit, we renewed the growing commitment to economic and educational relationships. The president of Treasure Valley Community College and his counterparts in the four universities in Osakasayama met for talks to begin exchanges of students. Others in our group talked with business leaders in exploring business ties to the Malheur County area. This year the delegation from Japan continued these discussions to look at agriculture as a first step in business exchanges. It will be an ongoing process but commitment is deep on both sides.

In talking informally with our sister city friends we have mentioned the cultural center and our involvement in education of the American people to the injustice of our citizens of Japanese-American descent. They are most interested in this period of history and felt strongly that the people of Japan would also be most interested in seeing a museum portraying the Japanese experience in the United States and how our community has integrated all its residents.

When we begin to look at the siting of this center in Ontario, we look at these ties to Japan, our long background of support to our citizens of Japanese-American ancestry and when questioned about why Ontario, we can answer simply, because our community has always cared about the dignity of each person in Ontario, and has broadened its concern internationally. Thank you, sir.

[Ms. Rust's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you for an excellent statement.

Ms. Krygier, we welcome you, I've long enjoyed my involvement with the small business development centers and your fine program, and we will make your prepared remarks a part of the record.

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE KRYGIER, DIRECTOR, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ms. KRYGIER. Thank you. It's a pleasure to see you again.

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you.

Ms. KRYGIER. My testimony details the impact of the proposed Japanese-American Culture Center on new small businesses for this community and outlines the support available to those startup businesses from the small business development center.

I want it to be noted that this is not an inclusive list, but it's a sampling of the kinds of businesses we might expect to see when the cultural center is completed. I've divided them into categories,

similar to the ones that Richard Bertram mentioned. Transportation is the first one I've addressed.

A national and international tourist market will necessitate, at the least, a shuttle service between the Boise Airport and Ontario and a local car rental service. At most, expansion of the Ontario Airport to accommodate commuter airline flights.

Under the category restaurants and food, the center may contain for convenience of the visitors a Japanese bakery/tea room. As an attraction, local Japanese-American women may offer the formal tea ceremony at prescribed times. A Japanese steakhouse featuring authentic Japanese cooking would fill a vacant niche in the current restaurant market. Conventions and cultural educational events would mean increased catering demand which would mean expanding existing catering businesses as well as possible creation of new businesses in that area.

Under cultural exhibits, design and construction of exhibits could be accomplished by local consultants such as photographers, graphic artists, carpenters, seamstresses, and businesses handling multimedia productions such as slide tape shows, video tapes, and so on.

Under the heading lodging and accommodations, expansion of existing hotels and motels would be necessary to accommodate visiting tourists and convention groups. There is currently some interest in bed and breakfast operations which are very popular and which would enhance lodging options. Overnight camping facilities are not adequate at present. This type of facility would offer an alternative to people who travel in recreational vehicles, and RV rental business may also be viable.

Under the category miscellaneous, which is kind of a catchall, the need for cultural center guidebooks, tickets, and programs for exhibits and cultural events, and maps for tours of the area may engender expansion of local printing businesses. Existing travel agencies will organize tours to local points of interest in addition to new businesses which may offer such options as covered wagon rides and a theme park. Local performing arts groups would increase their productions to accommodate conventions and tour groups. The Japanese garden would require the planning and maintenance of landscapers who have experience with Japanese gardens, and a new business may result from this need. A souvenir or gift shop in the facility would undoubtedly prove successful since most people buy a memento of their visit to special sites such as this one, and I can see some spinoff cottage industries around this gift or souvenir shop as well.

The gardeners may also wish to spin off with Japanese horticultural items such as bonsai, to be sold in the gift shop or through florist shops. Florist shops may offer special Japanese flower arranging classes, and existing gift shops may expand their lines to include gifts related to the center and its activities.

I have mentioned some businesses which might expand in my testimony. I want it to be stated that the center and the many new businesses it could generate will also have a positive growth impact on a wide spectrum of existing local businesses.

The small business development center works in conjunction with other local State and Federal resources to provide assistance to business startups and to existing businesses. The center would

assist the businesses related to the Japanese-American cultural center, while offering a combination of classes, workshops, seminars, and customized business counseling in the areas of business planning, recordkeeping, taxes, personnel management, marketing, customer service, sources of capital. In short, in whatever areas they may need assistance. The Japanese-American cultural center offers the potential for substantial business growth in Ontario and surrounding communities, and the small business development center is ready with the tools to help make it a successful business growth.

[Ms. Krygier's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Thank you very much for a helpful statement. Dr. Sherman.

TESTIMONY OF DR. LEONARD F. SHERMAN, PRESIDENT, ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Dr. SHERMAN. Thank you to Congressman Wyden for allowing me to come here before you today to brag on our community. I think my fellow citizens have done a good job of bragging on our community as a whole. But I'd like to brag on a specific segment of our community, and that's the business community that we have here in Ontario. I'm proud to be a part of that. I'd like to put forth some of the bright spots that we do have in our community.

It seems to me, looking at the project from the outside, a question would come up. How could a city the size of Ontario, 9,700 people, accommodate an influx of people that the Japanese cultural center might cause into this community. I think that's a viable question and one that needs to be answered.

Ontario, although it only has a population of 9,700 is a deceivingly small, but large community. We have the amenities and the business community that will accommodate quite a few more people than that.

We have approximately 800 businesses in Ontario itself, and we boast of a trade area of approximately 65,000 people. The fact that Oregon has not had a sales tax has led to the development of a large retail segment and a service segment within the city of Ontario, which accommodates more people than the population would seem to indicate.

Our major retail trade center is the West Park Plaza shopping plaza. It is approximately 45,000 square feet, with 33 stores. It serves 60,000 people annually and generates a revenue of about $45 million. This includes a recently remodeled Albertsons Food Store which is one of the largest stores in that chain.

Holy Rosary Medical Center is an acute care facility with 92 beds. It has a medical staff of 45 positions. Last year it served about 4,300 in-patients, and 24,600 out-patients. Not that, I hope, any of our visitors would have any ill-begotten events occur to them when they're here, but I think it gives an indication that our community is used to serving a larger trade area and more numbers, and a staff of 45 positions in a town of 9,700 people is impressive, I believe.

As for tourist amenities, it would directly support a tourist influx generated by the Japanese-American cultural center. We have 600

motel beds already in existence in Ontario. We have 35 restaurants with additional facilities available in adjacent communities.

Facilities are also available currently for recreational vehicles, although this probably does need to be expanded. There are also dealerships and service for most major automobiles in the city of Ontario.

With the establishment of the Japanese-American cultural center there may be a need to establish additional new businesses to support the visitors to the center. If this is necessary, Ontario's designation by the State of Oregon as an enterprise zone will offer many advantages to the establishment of new businesses to serve the Japanese-American cultural center.

Our economy is almost exclusively agriculture-based as you mentioned in your beginning remarks. Unfortunately, our agricultural income has declined almost $14 million between 1984 and 1987. This curtailment in our basic economic entity has of course trickled down to our economy. This has left our retail and service industries somewhat injured but still intact.

With the decline of our agriculture economy, the business community has become painfully aware of the problems of a one-industry economic base. The business community is enthused about the Japanese-American cultural center, not only because of the educational and cultural opportunities, but for the opportunity to diversify somewhat by adding a tourist attraction to aid in the economical diversification of our community. As you know, tourism is an emerging industry with a great deal of potential. Ontario and the surrounding communities have been working to promote more tourism. One problem is that we do not have destination tourism attractions in our community, and the Japanese-American cultural center would serve as the destination tourism site.

The passage of a motel/hotel tax 1 year ago in the city of Ontario, with one-third of the revenues being designated for tourism promotion, has enabled our community to form a visitors and convention bureau with a full-time director, which is actively working to market the area for tourism.

The bureau could play a vital role in the promotion and marketing of the Japanese-American cultural center. The Japanese-American cultural center, and its associate facilities will allow us to expand our efforts to provide points of interest and facilities to better serve visitors to our community. Our efforts in tourism are also being paralleled by our neighboring communities, such as Baker, which will allow us to promote the region as a whole and offer several varied attractions for visitors to this area of Oregon.

My hope in this presentation is to leave the impression that the Japanese-American cultural center is a facility that would be welcomed by the business community, and the community is able and willing to provide support businesses and facilities that will be necessary when the Japanese-American cultural center is in place. Thank you.

[Dr. Sherman's statement may be found in the appendix.]

Chairman WYDEN. Well, Doctor, thank you, and that also is very helpful. Let me start the questioning of this panel in a very specific way. Mr. Bertram, I think you summed up my views very well when you made it very clear that the benefits of this project, if

only for educational and cultural reasons, are very clear. If we were to look at no other factors than those two, this in my view would be a very commendable, very praiseworthy project.

I think you are right in saying that what we're talking about now when it comes to the jobs and the economic development, is essentially an added topic, something to focus on in addition to the educational and cultural considerations. I want to make it clear that is my view as well, and I think you summed it up very well with your comment in that regard.

Now, let me ask just a few questions of this panel. Ms. Trindle, you have laid out what is really very, very large figures, in terms of the projected employment and economic benefit for eastern Oregon as a result of this project, and I know that your tourism department does not make these recommendations lightly. You all have analyzed the figures, and they certainly are very impressive.

Would one assume from your testimony, that this project, then, the Japanese-American cultural center would be your top initiative in terms of new projects and trying to attract tourists from Japan?

Ms. TRINDLE. In terms of the entire State campaign? I think it would be—I couldn't say that it would be our top priority. It would be one of an entire package to try to bring some awareness and identity to different parts of the State. There are a number of great projects throughout the State, and you're very aware as a State agency, we have to be appreciative of all those. What we're trying to offer is bringing people into the State for longer stays and broaden that base so that it's not just in pocket areas.

Chairman WYDEN. It would be your view that this project has particularly great potential at this point?

Ms. TRINDLE. I think it very much so does. In light of the avenues we're making into the Japanese market, and also things that we're doing here at home or domestically. Also in light of the progress that the congressional staff has made on the Oregon Trail National Monument. Very logical marketing avenues then can be made when these two large attractions are only 70 miles away.

Chairman WYDEN. Question for you, Ms. Rust. In your written testimony you mentioned discussions between business people in the county and Ontario's sister city in Japan over increasing agricultural trade. What progress has been made in that area, and do you see the cultural center factoring into those efforts?

Ms. RUST. They're very preliminary. We just opened economic discussions last year this summer. They came to us wanting to pursue the crops that we have in Malheur County. As far as it factoring into the center, I think increased awareness of a Malheur County crop in Osaka, Japan is certainly going to open many eyes to Oregon. They already are aware of Oregon in the television production that has been done there. So, Oregon is a prominent name. Then tying it into a community, the loyalty that they feel to friends and family in Oregon, I think, would be the tie.

Chairman WYDEN. With respect to Boise and since your colleague from Boise couldn't be here, what would be the role of Boise in all of this, and how do you see, in effect, tourists coming both domestically and from overseas to the area and then getting to the community?

Ms. RUST. As you are aware, Delta flies into Portland daily, around 6 a.m. in the morning. Even given the hour time difference, that could get them to the Boise airport at approximately 9 o'clock. We would then anticipate that they would come back to Ontario at that point.

We have a strange relationship in that sometimes we are more Idaho than we are Oregon, given our close proximity to Boise. We have long worked with our neighboring counties, Payette, and Washington County, and packaging Hills Canyon, and packaging the Fiddlers Festival. Those kinds of things. In talking with Ms. Patterson we saw a continuation of those conjunction roles.

Chairman WYDEN. In terms of these tour packages, would you see them working, as you just described them? Tourists would land in Portland early in the morning and then head to the eastern part of the State, and then perhaps after visiting in the eastern part of the State, head westward and visit various communities, and then fly back from Portland. Is that something——

Ms. RUST. That could very well be the pattern. I have also seen them come in from Los Angeles, working their way up through Disneyland, San Francisco, and then coming to Boise. That is usually the pattern of our sister city. My former community, our sister city came in through Seattle at one time. Now they are coming directly into Portland. They do spend time with us and then go on to the beaches and take in the rest of Oregon.

Chairman WYDEN. Did you want to add to that Mr. Bertram?

Mr. BERTRAM. No; thank you.

Chairman WYDEN. OK. Ms. Krygier, you mentioned a variety of new small business opportunities that could come about as a result of the cultural center. Once the center is open, what would you see the role as the small business development center in terms of helping potential entrepreneurs?

Ms. KRYGIER. I think we have an excellent network here in our local communities of people who feed each others' programs. In other words, the city of Ontario may see someone coming in for licensing, or the chamber may have someone coming in for business information. We all feed each others' programs.

I see that information about new businesses coming to me, or referrals coming to me through those channels, through the banks, various different channels. Our methodology would be the same that we use for any other businesses coming in to use our services.

We approach each case individually. We sit down and counsel people on a one-to-one basis. We induct them into our classes and training sessions. That would be our format. Also working with our local economic development coordinator, to access State programs that are available for funding businesses and for assistance to businesses.

Chairman WYDEN. Is it your view, Ms. Krygier, that there are small businesses out there that are in effect waiting for the cultural center to open and then they would try to involve themselves at that time?

Ms. KRYGIER. I don't know that they're waiting, but I know that there are a lot of good ideas out there waiting to happen. I imagine if the cultural center were to become reality that those ideas would start to focus.

Chairman WYDEN. Dr. Sherman, just one question for you. It's your view that even by way of optimistic projections for what the cultural center might mean for the county in terms of economics, it's your belief that existing services, and existing resources could absorb most of it. There would not be a danger that the county would be immediately flooded with so many visitors that they just couldn't be absorbed?

Dr. SHERMAN. Well, I think with some of the figures that have come forth today that is a possibility. But I've seen this business community respond to need in the past, and I think that we have enough pent up desire through our depressed economy that we've had over the last few years that I think that the business community will rise to the occasion. I don't really see that we will be terribly overwhelmed, and of course it's going to be a slow process anyway.

The cultural center will not come into existence and have peak demand all of a sudden. So, I think that you'll find the business community is able to grow along with the cultural center.

Chairman WYDEN. This has been a very good panel. I want to thank all of you and just make a couple of quick comments in concluding the hearing.

I think we have done what we sought to do today, which is to build a record that lays out the benefits of this project from a variety of points of view. I have to tell you that I have learned much today. The personal accounts, the history, the commitment of this community to equal justice, and to equal rights, I think is a spellbinding story. I just want to thank you all for coming.

A couple of formalities that we should do at this point. We're going to keep the record of this subcommittee hearing open for 10 days so that anyone who cares to submit testimony in writing would be able to do so. We welcome that for those who would care to do so.

It is another way to build the kind of historical record that can be done through a congressional hearing. I do want to cut it off after 10 days because it's the Chair's intent to then quickly put together a printed record of this hearing, so that would be available shortly after the time when we take testimony.

So, I want to tell our recorder, our very good recorder, I might add, that we will follow those procedures for this hearing.

Again, I want to thank all of our witnesses, and those who attended. I think this project has great benefits, and I believe that we'll look back on this day when we put in place the first official Federal record of the benefits of this project, as a very special one.

So, my thanks to all of you for your good work. Unless our panel cares to add anything, we will adjourn. Subcommittee adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:25 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

APPENDIX

Testimony for the Congressional hearing (Aug. 17, 1988) in Ontario, Oregon for the Ontario Japanese American Cultural Center.

Francis R. McLean
Publisher, Argus Observer

My testimony today will be in three parts:
First — to show the need for the Japanese-American Cultural Center in Ontario;
Second — to give some recorded historical information from 1942, and,
Third — to state the harmonious intermingling of the Malheur County population.

First, Americans of Japanese descent, whether citizens or aliens, were definitely part of the American population during World War II and were not subjects of Japan. They were however, treated as a potential enemy as a nationality and not as individuals as were the Germans and Italians. This is a direct violation of the American way of life -- freedom for all.

"The immigrants from Japan who settled in this country raised civic-minded, law-abiding families, and became doers and leaders in our communities. They have enriched our way of life more than any of us can ever say," said Richard Nixon in 1969 in marking the one hundredth anniversary of Japanese immigration.

Building a Japanese-American Cultural Center to record history and to make sure the American government never again violates a group of our people's rights is an important part of the restitution bill.

To record this history does not in any way take away from honoring all Americans who fought and those who were wounded or killed during World War II. We have honored and we should always continue to honor those brave and patriotic men and women. That would include the 30,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in the U.S. military in Europe and the Pacific.

The second point I wish to make...is to give you a little information on how Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho viewed the internment and free zone treatment of Japanese-Americans. Malheur County was a free zone where vital food crops were in danger of nearly total loss due to a lack of farm labor. Consequently, Japanese-Americans were urged to come to Malheur County. There was, of course, opposition. However many people, including the Eastern Oregon Observer (now Argus Observer) Publisher Elmo Smith, led the crusade to bring Japanses Americans to the area. Smith later served in the U.S. military, was Ontario mayor and later the governor of the state of Oregon. His son, Denny Smith, is now Oregon's Representative to Congress from District Five. The following is part of an editorial written by Elmo Smith and published on May 21, 1942.

> The Japanese are coming in. Our farming communities need them. As workers they will be self-supporting and not a burden on taxpayers. They can save agriculture millions of dollars in crops. Beet and field work is certainly no soft vacation to offer them and there is no earthly reason why they should be government-supported with labor at a premium for the duration.
>
> Even tossing out the economic need for Japanese labor, as this column has pointed out before, so many supposedly public spirited officials and individuals have missed entirely the essence of duty-to-country in handling the problem. That is this. If the Japanese, both alien and nationals, are a menace to the Pacific coast safety unless they are moved inland, it appears down-right cowardly to take any other stand than to put out the call, "Send them along; we'll cooperate to the fullest possible extent in taking care of them."

In 1942 the United States press almost never used the term "Japanese-American"... and seldom used the word "Japanese"...but more often used the prejudice four letter version to refer to Americans of Japanese descent. However, I was delighted to find the local

media of that era using the term Japanese-Americans more often than other media did.

Here are two more articles from the front pages of the Eastern Oregon Observer showing the movement of Japanese-Americans to this area ..From the Thursday, June 11, 1942 Western Oregon Observer

"Japanese evacuees to Malheur County to ease the labor shortage were substantially increased with the arrival Monday of nearly 200 from the Portland center. Arrival of this group taxed to capacity the housing facilities of the FSA farm labor camp five miles south of Nyssa. Total Japanese laborers are expected for the present at least because of lack of additional housing facilities. Farmers who have housing for families are being allowed to move them to their ranches. This policy is expected to make more room in the camp for the bringing in of more Japanese from the evacuation centers. Plenty of work for all that can be brought in is certain until after the harvest season is completed this fall.

"Satisfaction with the type of work being done by the Japanese in the fields has been expressed by the farmers. Many of them have stated that after several days experience they are the best thinners ever used in the county. On the other hand, many of the Japanese who were afraid to come to the county, have now asked permission to write others that conditions here were excellent in an effort to relieve still further the labor shortage and get friends away from the idleness of the evacuation centers.

"One Japanese official here late last week to investigate the conditions offered the evacuees expressed amazement at some of those he saw in the beet fields. He identified several women of high talent and independent financial means who have been accustomed to office work only and possess excellent educations who have taken to the beet fields in earnest. He made the statement that unless he had seen them at the work himself he would not believe it. He expressed himself as being highly gratified at the treatment his people were being accorded here, but also stated pleasure at the hard effort the evacuees were making to be useful regardles of the kind of work they were called on to perform."

From the May 28, 1942 Eastern Oregon Observer.

"Forty-three Japanese farm laborers from the Portland evacuation center detrained Thursday noon at Nyssa to aid in saving Malheur County farm crops. They joined the previous 15 who had arrived last Friday. An extra member of the party accompanied the latest group and will return to Portland to seek more recruits following his inspection of the conditions here.

"Plans to bring in much larger groups from the evacuation centers have been blocked for several weeks by the doubts in the minds of the Japanese as to the kind of treatment they could expect here. Reports from the Japanese already here and the returning observer are expected to bring still more Japanese. Another group is reported ready to leave Portland Thursday night.

"A meeting of young Japanese American residents of Malheur County at a meeting Saturday night voted to send night letters and phone calls to persons they knew personally in the camp, urging them to come to Malheur County. They brought out in discussions that anything they could do to ease the situation would help greatly in the strained public relations of the Japanese Americans."

The third point I wish to make is that Ontario and neighboring communities have

accepted the Americans of Japanese descent as equals.

The Japanese-Americans always demonstrated outstanding citizenship, participating in school, community and government events and projects. They have integrated into our communities very well. Japanese names are found on football and baseball rosters, on pep rally squads, debate teams, in choir and band and Japanese Americans often hold class and studentbody offices. A proud group of people, most make every effort not to cause undue heartache for parents and families and stress good citizenship.

Every area school honor roll is dotted with names which indicate Japanese ancestry.

In many areas they are reticent to push themselves forward, preferring low key involvement; standing back to let others take the lead and limelight.

In Malheur County, there are many different religious beliefs. We have a blending of ethnic groups and of life styles. Here one finds no seperate community for these groups as all are found working and living together in harmony.

However, there is still work to be done so we can achieve total "partnership in the great American Dream."

"Mike Masaoka had a larger vision, a vision that said being an American was a matter of mind and heart — not of skin color and ethnic origin. Thousands of other Japanese-Americans agreed with him. It is to their eternal credit that they loved the United States — with all its faults — enough to fight and die for the rights and privileges that had been denied them. These are the words of Mike Mansfield, Ambassador of the United States of America in Tokyo in the introduction of the book, 'They Call Me Moses Masaoka'."

President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights termed the imprisioning of Japanese-Americans as, "the most striking interference since slavery with the right to physicial freedom."

Let the Flag wave one time more for me before the end of my lifetime...must be the feeling of many of our friends and neighbors of this area.

TESTIMONY
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
Subcommittee on Regulation
and Business Opportunities

Ontario, Oregon
August 17, 1988

Tom D. Crouch
Chairman, Department of Social
and Cultural History
National Museum of American History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

INTRODUCTION

On October 1, 1987, the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, opened a new exhibition commemorating the bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States. Entitled, A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution, the exhibition attempts to lead museum visitors to a better understanding of the fundamental meaning of the words of the Constitution and to underscore the absolute necessity for citizen involvement in defense of civil liberties.

A MORE PERFECT UNION: THE EXHIBITION

During the opening months of World War II, almost 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of them citizens of the United States, were forced out of their homes and communities and into detention camps established by the U.S. government. Many of them would spend the next three years living under armed guard, behind barbed wire. A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution explores this period when racial prejudice and fear upset the delicate balance between the rights of the citizen and the power of the state. It tells the story of these Japanese Americans - a people who suffered injustice at the hands of their government and who have struggled ever since to correct that injustice and obtain the rights guaranteed all Americans by the Constitution. The exhibition is a case study in the process of constitutional decision-making and citizen action within the constitutional framework.

Like all Asians arriving in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japanese immigrants faced special problems. National legislation specifically prohibited them, solely on the basis of race, from becoming naturalized citizens. Some western states passed additional discriminatory legislation, including a California prohibition against land ownership by people ineligible for citizenship. Widespread anti-Asian prejudice led to other restrictions on social and economic opportunity.

The Issei (as members of the immigrant generation were known) struggled to overcome these difficulties, and many succeeded in building lives for themselves in the United States. They carved out their own neighborhoods in urban areas such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, where, through cooperation and mutual support, they could work to ease the burdens of racial prejudice and restriction. Others challenged state land laws and established themselves as fruit and vegetable growers. All hoped that their children, the Nisei, who had been born citizens of the United States, would enjoy an easier life.

That was not to be. In the face of prejudice and hysteria, constitutional safeguards were ignored for Americans of Japanese ancestry. There were no formal accusations. There were no trials. Not a single charge of espionage or sabotage was brought against a Japanese American. Citizen and resident alien alike, they were presumed guilty of potential disloyalty solely on the basis of their ancestry. Many were forced to sell their property at an enormous loss. All were deprived of their freedom.

A More Perfect Union tells the story of this episode through the medium of hundreds of artifacts and photographs. Visitors learn about the homes and communities that Japanese Americans left behind and the new lives that they built in the camps. A reconstructed barracks room based on architectural drawings of a barracks at the Jerome, Arkansas detention camp is filled with actual furniture, dishes, clothing, and other everyday objects that Japanese Americans made and used in camps across the West.

Despite these events, more than 30,000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. military during World War II. A 105 mm howitzer, a jeep, many other military artifacts, and several of the 18,000 decorations these soldiers won tell the story of their courage during the war. The valor of these citizen-soldiers, most of whom had left family and friends living behind barbed wire, underscored the unjustice they had suffered.

Some inmates of the camps sought to call attention to their situation in a more direct fashion; they followed the time-honored American tradition of civil disobedinece and were sentenced to prison for protesting the abrogation of their rights as citizens. Others went to court. Four cases involving the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans eventually reached the United States Supreme Court.

Japanese Americans returned from the camps to take their place in American society after 1945, but the injustice of the war years was not forgotten. The struggle to focus attention on the indignity and hardship suffered by American citizens at the hands of their own government and to remove the old barriers of racial prejudice and discrimination has been long and difficult. It continues to this day.

There has been much progress. Race is no longer a barrier to citizenship. The injustice suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry has been recognized by Presidential proclamation, through the recommendations of a prestigious Presidential Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and by the recent action of the Congress and the President.

In spite of the progress, the fundamental issues and problems remain. Two centuries ago, James Madison remarked that the Constitution is a document in which "every word...decides a question between power and liberty." The experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry has demonstrated the truth of his words. Through their struggle to ensure that all Americans understand the importance of extending the safeguards and protections of the Constitution to every citizen, regardless of race, color, or creed, they have moved all of us a bit closer to that "More Perfect Union" envisioned by the founders of the nation.

THE POSSIBILITY OF SMITHSONIAN ASSISTANCE TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS PLANNING EXHIBITIONS DEALING WITH THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution was specifically designed for the space that it now occupies on the third floor of the National Museum of American History. It is a semi-permanent installation, scheduled to remain in place for at least five years. There is no possibility of its being taken down before that time, nor is there any possibility of its being dismantled and moved to another location at the end of that period. Because of the nature of the design and construction of the physical elements of the exhibition, dismantling is tantamount to destruction. It would have to be completely refabricated in any new location.

Nor would it be possible to guarantee the loan of many of the artifacts included in the exhibition to another institution. Most of the objects displayed are on loan from individuals or other institutions and will have to be returned at the conclusion of the Smithsonian show. Any organization planning to display the objects now exhibited in A More Perfect Union after our show comes down (c. 1992-1993) would have to renegotiate all loans with the owners of the artifacts.

On a more positive note, the Smithsonian is more than willing to offer considerable assistance to any group or organization planning an exhibition on the Japanese American experience. Our staff could assist such a group in making contact with the community groups and individuals who played an important role in the process of acquiring objects for our exhibition. We would also be happy to share our construction drawings, material specifications, cost sheets and any other documents that might be of practical value.

The NMAH can make the audio-visual materials produced for our show available at cost and offer technical advice as to the hardware and software employed in our exhibition. During the process of developing A More Perfect Union our staff amassed hundreds of xerox copies of photos and works of art held by major libraries and repositories. Those photo books (which in most cases include order numbers for use in obtaining copies from the agencies holding the original materials) would be very useful to anyone planning an exhibition on the subject.

Finally, our staff would be willing to offer advice or assistance of a general nature, and could put interested parties in touch with experts on the subject who can offer specific comment or advice.

Because of the current busy schedule of exhibitions and public programs at the NMAH, we are forced to place very real limits on the involvement of staff members in outside projects. It would not be possible, for example, for staff members of the NMAH to perform research for another organization planning an exhibition on the Japanese American experience. At the same time, we would be pleased to assist any researcher or exhibition planner employed by such an organization. That is to say, we would not be able to choose or order photos for such an outside project, nor could we devote a great amount of time to copying such materials. We could, however, assist a visiting researcher in the use of the photo books compiled for our exhibition.

I would like to close my remarks with a note of congratulations to those citizens and organizations in the Ontario, Oregon area who have put so much thought and hard work into planning for a Japanese American Cultural Center to be located at Treasure Valley Community College. I have read their proposal and am most impressed. In my view, their effort deserves support.

Statement of

Randy Harano, President, Snake River Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League

At a hearing of the Small Business Sub-Committee on Regulation and Business Opportunities to discuss the plans for a Japanese American Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon.

August 17, 1988

It would seem that the two most often asked questions about the proposed Japanese American Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon are: Why should there be a memorial for the Japanese Americans that were interned during the Second World War? and Why do you want to build it in Ontario, Oregon?.

I will attempt in my statement to give you the historical background that makes it clear why there is a need for a memorial and why locating it in Ontario is the correct choice.

Among the documents which form the philosophical and legal foundations of our nation, such as The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States of America, no idea is more basic in the origin and developement of American history, traditions, and statutes than the principal of equality of all persons before the law. Our nation's history leads us to the inescapable conclusion that in the opinion of the Founding Fathers, such as Franklin, Adams and Jefferson, true Americanism meant an unbending insistence by each individual that any government accoard him equality of treatment before its laws and refrain from unjustly violating certain "unalienable rights" such as "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".

The first Immigrants from Japan landed in San Francisco Harbor in May of 1869. For the next twenty years their numbers

never amounted to more than a few hundred. The flow of immigrants grew in the decade between 1891 and 1900, when 27,440 entered, and reached a peak between 1901 and 1908 when 51,694 were admitted. The resident population did not grow as rapidly as figures might suggest, because many Japanese departed after a short stay. All immigration ceased in 1924 with the passage of an Immigration Act that barred entry to Asians. In 1940 the Japanese American population was 126,947, 88.5% of which were living in California, Oregon and Washington.

Agriculture was the leading vocation for Japanese Americans on the Pacific Coast, with 43% engaged in farming and 26% of the gainfully employed working in related activities. The Japanese American farmers reclaimed much of the unwanted land and developed it into rich agricultural areas. In California, Japanese American farmers produced 50 to 90% of some fruits and vegetables despite operating only 4% of the farmlands. Envy led to hate and the prevailing anti-Asian animosities became focused on the Japanese. Newspapers, radio, and motion pictures stereotyped Japanese Americans as untrustworthy. The media did not recognize the fact that the majority of persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States were American citizens. As Japan became a military power, the media falsely depicted Japanese Americans as agents for Japan. Newspapers inflamed the "Yellow Peril" myths on the West Coast, and radio, movies and comic strips spread the disease of prejudice throughout the United States.

By 1941 the United States had broken Japan's top secret code and was aware of the probability of armed conflict. Consequently,

the U.S. government undertook certain precautionary measures. In October the State Department dispatched a special investigator, Curtis B. Munson, to check on the disposition of the Japanese American communities on the West Coast and Hawaii.

In November 1941, Munson submitted a confidential report to the President and the Secretary of State which certified that Japanese Americans possessed an extraordinary degree of loyalty to the United States, and immigrant Japanese were of no danger. Munson's findings were corroborated by years of secret surveillance conducted by the FBI and Navy Intelligence. Both reported that there were a few potential extremists identified, but almost 100% of the Japanese American population was absolutely trustworthy.

Many people who are unfamiliar with the historical background have assumed that the attack on Pearl Harbor was the cause of, or justification for, the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast. But that assumption is contradicted by one glaring fact: the Japanese Americans in Hawaii were not similarly incarcerated. Such a massive injustice could not have occurred without the prior history of prejudice and legal discrimination.

The FBI was well prepared for the war and arrested over 2000 persons of Japanese ancestry throughout the United States and Territories of Alaska and Hawaii within a few days after the declaration of war. Nearly all of these arrestees were Japanese nationals, but some American citizens were included. No charge of espionage, sabotage or any other crime was ever filed against

these arrestees. They were apprehended only because they were thought to be suspicious persons in the opinion of the FBI.

The white economic interests in California, however, were not satisfied with the arrests of individuals, and the fact that domestic security was under firm control. They wanted the entire Japanese American population removed from California. The same pressure groups and newspapers which had agitated so long for Japanese exclusion organized an intense rumor and hate campaign. Totally false stories were published about spies and saboteurs among the Japanese Americans. The war became the perfect pretext for the anti-Japanese groups to accomplish the goal they had been seeking for over 40 years. The truth was that no person of Japanese ancestry living in the United States or Territories of Alaska and Hawaii was ever charged with, or convicted of, espionage or sabotage.

On Feburary 19, 1942, shortly after the entry of the United States into World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. He did so despite the objections from Attorney General Francis Biddle, who felt it was unconstitutional, and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, who felt it was unnecessary. This allowed the wholesale uprooting and imprisonment of practically all Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry without a shred of evidence of misconduct or disloyalty and without even a pretence of a trial. This monstrous violation of the most basic of American traditions and laws relating to human freedom was the culmination of four decades of anti-Japanese propaganda of the most vile, outragous and pervasive sort.

Executive Order 9066 broadly authorized any military commander to exclude any person from any area. The presidential order did not mention any specific group, nor did it provide for detention. However, there was an understanding among high officials that the authorization was to be used for the purpose of removing and incarcerating the Japanese Americans.

General John L. DeWitt, military commander of the Western Defense Command, thereupon issued a series of over 100 military orders applying exclusively to civilians of Japanese ancestry living in the West Coast states. The sole basis for DeWitt's orders was ancestry; he was often quoted as stating: "A Jap's a Jap. It makes no difference whether the Jap is a citizen or not." He further masked the issue of citizen rights by using the term "non-alien" to refer to United States citizens in all of his written orders. Beginning in March 1942, DeWitt ordered all persons of Japanese ancestry in California, plus parts of Arizona, Oregon and Washington to turn themselves in at temporary detention camps near their homes. The rationale for these actions was "military necessity", but such a claim was inconsistent with the fact that Japanese Americans in Hawaii were not similarly subjected to wholesale and indiscriminate incarceration. DeWitt's detention orders were ostensibly for the purpose of protecting the West Coast against sabotage and espionage, but babies, orphans, adopted children, the infirm and bedridden elderly were also imprisoned.

There were 15 temporary detention camps scattered throughout Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. They were mostly

county fairgrounds, race tracks and livestock exhibition halls hastily converted into detention camps with barbed wire fences, search lights and guard towers. Living quarters consisted of horse stalls, some with manure still inside. People were forced to leave their homes with only a few days notice and could take only what they could carry with them. Property had to be hurriedly sold, abandoned, given away or left in insecure storage. Crops were left unharvested. Many lost titles to homes, businesses and farmlands because taxes and mortgage payments became impossible to pay. Most bank accounts had already been frozen or confiscated as "Enemy assets".

In June 1942 the U.S. Navy won a decisive victory at the Battle of Midway and the tide of war shifted in favor of the Allies. Japan was no longer militarily capable of attacking the West Coast or even Hawaii. Even so, at great cost and despite the critical shortage of materials, the government built 10 mass detention camps in isolated areas. Topaz, Utah; Poston, Ariz; Rivers, Ariz; Amache, Colo; Heart Mountain, Wyo; Jerome, Ark; Manzanar, Calif; Minidoka, Idaho; Rohwer, Ark; Tule Lake, Calif. The vast majority of Japanese Americans were moved from the temporary detention camps to the permanent camps after the threat of invasion had vanished. A total of about 120,000 Japanese Americans were ultimately detained. These people who were known for their pride in rarely having been on welfare or locked up in prisons, were relegated to wards of the government guarded by armed soldiers. Fathers were no longer the family breadwinners; parents lost control of their children and families rarely ate meals together. Many were terrified because of the unpridictable

future and the hopelessness of the situation. Many did not expect to come out alive. Overwhelming despair caused some detainees to commit suicide. Many more died prematurely due to inadequate medical facilities and the harsh environment.

Despite the way their country had treated them, immediately after the War Department's decision to create a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese decent, 3500 Nisei evacuees volunteered to serve their country. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was activated on February 1. 1943 and was comprised of the 100th Battalion, 522nd Field Artillery and the 232nd Engineers. During World War II, the 442nd became famous as the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in American military history.

The final record of the 442nd at the end of the war showed seven major campaigns in Europe, seven Presidential Unit Citations, 9,486 casualties, and 18,143 individual decorations. No soldier assigned to the 442nd ever deserted the ranks, a record unmatched by any other American military outfit.

Some 33.000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, 6000 in the Pacific theater served their country as translators, interpreters, interrogators and cave-flushers. Plus, when the occasion arose, combat infantrymen. The Nisei members in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) were credited with preserving thousands of American lives and millions of dollars in materials as a result of their contribution to the war effort.

The Japanese Americans went to war to fight for democracy

and at the same time, to prove to their country that they were loyal Americans. Many were killed in action, and when their parents were notified of their death, many of the fathers and mothers were still in the detention camps.

After wars end when the evacuees were allowed to return to their homes in California, Oregon, and Washington they were met with many act of vigilante violence and the agitation of pressure groups determined to keep the Japanese Americans out permanently. Homes, farms and businesses left behind were occupied by whites unwilling to return property to rightful owners. Homes were burned and dynamited, and Japanese Americans were targets of terrorist shootings. More acts of violence and terrorism were committed against them at the end of the war than at the beginning. Reconstructing their lives was not easy, and for some it was too late. Elderly pioneers had lost everything they worked for all their lives and were too old to start anew. Having been expelled from their homes and jobs at the height of their productive years, they were unable to save much for retirement. Many American born had their education disrupted and could no longer afford to go to college because family support become their responsibility.

Property losses alone were conservatively estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco to be in excess of 400 million collars based on 1941 figures. Congress appropriated partial restitution for property losses, but only 8 1/2% of property losses were ever compensated. Nothing was done to compensate for the tremendous increase in land values during the war years, lost income, unnecessary deaths, mental suffering and

loss of freedom.

Not only were direct losses sustained, but long lasting psycological damages resulted. Families disintegrated under the prison- like conditions, and individuals became disoriented and embittered. People lost their sense of self-esteem and could not regain enough self-confidence to compete as well as they could have in American society. Adults could never forget the experience and children faced the life-long stigma of their birth certificates or school records indicating they spent their childhood in captivity. Most importantly, Japanese Americans suffered the indignity of being falsely imprisoned by their own government.

Enactment of the "Civil Liberties Act of 1987" acknowledges the fundamental injustice of the evacuation, relocation and internment of United States citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. It provides an apology on behalf of the people of the United States, a public education fund, restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were interned and discourages the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties in the future while making more credible any declaration of concern by the United States over violations of human rights committed by other nations.

The Japanese American Cultural Center that is proposed for the Treasure Valley Community College campus in Ontario, Oregon would serve as a permanent reminder and educational facility so that the injustices that occured will never be forgotten or repeated in this great country of ours. The museum exhibits will

serve to promote a greater understanding of the importance of extending the safeguards and protections of the Constitution to every citizen, regardless of race, color or creed.

The first permanent residents of Japanese ancestry in Malheur County, Oregon arrived in 1909. These were true pioneers with visions of building a better life for themselves and their families. By 1940 the Treasure Valley was home to about 15 families of Japanese ancestry. They worked side by side with their Caucasian neighbors and were respected as productive members of the community.

During the two week period of voluntary relocation from the costal areas, because this was a "Free zone", many Japanese Americans who had family or friends in the Treasure Valley chose to settle here. They found the vast majority of the community to be accepting and appreciative of their contributions.

On May 21, 1942 a group of 15 evacuees left the Portland Army Assembly Center for seasonal agricultural work in Malheur County under civilian restriction order of the Western Defense Command. So well did this pilot program succeed that subsequentially 10,000 evacuees would venture out from the barbed wire compounds to help harvest the earth's bounty. In Malheur County the number grew to 1500 that came to work the fields.

In 1945, Secretary of Interior Ickes announced that all detention camps would be closed within one year. Evacuee families were alloted $25 in cash, a ticket and enough money for food for each member of the family enroute to their destination. After that they were "on their own." Coastal cities were already overcrowded with workers who had surged to the wartime jobs

provided by defense industries.

Unlike the discrimination, terrorism and hardship that greeted those who chose to return to the Coastal areas from which they had been displaced, those who chose to settle in the Treasure Valley found their caucasian neighbors for the most part to be compassionate and accepting. Elmo Smith, then Mayor of Ontario and subsequently Governer of Oregon, was instrumental in making the Japanese American newcomers welcome and activily sought housing and jobs for those in need. As a result, thw county's Japanese American population grew to more then 5000 and has become an intrinsic part of the community.

The spiritual needs of the Japanese American community were met with the dedication of the Boise Valley Community Methodist Church, later to be renamed the Ontario Community United Methodist Church, after the Easter Worhip service on April 1, 1945. Those of the Buddhist faith began to organize with the arrival of Rev. Tesshin Shibata from one of the camps in that same year. The Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Church was dedicated in April of 1947 and officially joined the Buddhist Churches of America.

Each July for the past 42 years the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple congragation has celebrated the Obon Festival. The Obon is a memorial time when those who have gone before are honored. Attended by thousands, the one-day celebration is a mix of traditional Oriental and folk dances. The temple is open to the public, and visitors are invited to don colorful happy coats and join the dancing.

Osaka Sayamashi, Japan and Ontario, Oregon formed a sister-city relationship in 1974. The program's intent is to further internationl understanding at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. The two cities are encouraged to exchange ideas, peoples, and items in a wide variety of cultural, youth, educational, municipal and professional projects. The relationship continues to grow as travelers from each city visit the other once a year. It also provides an established base for expanding tourism to the Northwest from Japan.

Other related attractions are the Tule Lake War Relocation Center, just south of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and the Minidoka War Relocation Center just 190 miles east of Ontario. Tule Lake is marked by a stone monument with a landmark plaque along the highway. Easily accessible on Interstate 84, Minidoka will become part of the Idaho State Park system after completion of trail systems and interpretive signs in 1990. Exhibits in the Japanese American Cultural Center will document the camps and camp life and provide maps to assist those who wish to make a pilgrimage to the scene of the Japanese American incarceration.

Ontario, with it's rich Japanese American cultural heritage and long standing tradition of implementing the American ideal of equal opportunity for all, is the community best suited to the concept of the proposed Japanese American Cultural Center.

Kathy M. Jordan
2785 Bully Creed Rd.
Vale, OR 97918

I come before you today to testify at this hearing in two capacities: 1) as the Executive Director of the Treasure Valley Community College Foundation and 2) as the designated representative of Janice Larsen, President of the Oregon Division of the American Association of University Women. I am the Community Area Representative on the Oregon Division Board.

Let me begin on behalf of the Foundation. Twenty-five years ago, when TVCC was founded, foresighted individuals in the Treasure Valley also founded the Foundation as a non-profit Oregon Corporation. It's initial primary focus was to provide scholarship funds for TVCC students. However, the Foundation also played a prominent role in procuring the funding for the construction of the Weese Building, in which we are located this afternoon.

Through contributions from numerous residents through the years and astute fiscal management on the part of the Board, the Foundation has developed nearly $400,000 worth of assets. In 1988, approximately $21,000 of interest from these assets was utilized for student scholarships to this institution.

As the Foundation enters its 26th year of operation, significant changes have taken place. The Board has undertaken a revision of their bylaws, adoption of short and long range goals and a Mission Statement. Let me share with you our Mission Statement.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Foundation's purpose shall be to receive and administer gifts, grants, and bequests and raise funds for the general benefit and enhancement of educational opportunities available at Treasure Valley Community College in order to compliment the college in:

1) Providing student financial assistance
2) Promoting excellence in faculty and development
3) Assisting in obtaining capital improvements
4) Pursuing enrichment experiences for students, faculty and community.

In concert with our Mission Statement, Goal #5 of our Long Range Goals reads:

Goal V. To further enhance the availability of educational opportunities at Treasure Valley Community College by undertaking a capital construction plan.

The Foundation was the catalyst in construction of the Weese

Building during the 1960's. The Foundation should continue to promote capital improvements at Treasure Valley Community College to create a dynamic institution, competitive among the Community Colleges in Oregon.

Implementation

1. The Foundation should undertake an aggressive role in seeking the funds for a Multi Media Center.

2. The Foundation, in concert with the College Board should likewise address the construction needs of the Community Education Department and Small Business Development Center.

3. The Foundation should study future construction of a library, additional classroom space, and a day care center.

At a joint meeting of the Foundation Board, College Board, and the Japanese American Memorial Committee on August 15. It was the consensus of all present that the Multi Media Center which we shall aggressively seek the funding for is the first phase of the construction of the Japanese American Memorial. The Foundation stands ready to assist in the private fund-raising effort to raise 1.25 million dollars for this construction.

In my second capacity as the representative for the Oregon Division of the American Association of University Women, let me briefly acquaint you with our organization. One of the oldest and largest women's organizations, with a national membership of nearly 200,000 women, AAUW is open to any person holding a baccalaureate or higher degree. The AAUW Educational Foundation allocated over a million dollars in grants last year from their $60 million dollar endowment. The AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life-span, and positive societal change through the tenant of study and action.

In 1986, the Association adopted censorship as one of its focus issues. In concurrence with this theme, the Ontario branch of AAUW sponsored a community forum spot-lighting the Japanese Americans internment. Randy Harano, David Maeda, Joe Saito, George Iseri, and Mam Wakasugi discussed the direct and indirect effects of the internment on their lives as well as touching on the Constitutional and censorship issues. A copy of the press coverage from this meeting is included in my testimony.

As a result of this forum, the Ontario branch of AAUW submitted a resolution to the Oregon Division Convention in April, 1988 stating that the Oregon Division of AAUW move to end censorship of Oregon textbooks by lobbying for inclusion of information pertaining to the Japanese American internment.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Education Area Representative, Cultural Area Representative and myself, the Community Area Representative, on the Oregon Division Board met in July, 1988 with the full Board, and further developed the concept. It is our goal that the AAUW Educational Fund provide a grant to the Oregon Division to research and write the text for textbooks. The Oregon division Board also took the following resolution to the Regional Conference of the Mountain Pacific Region at the University of Hawaii in July, 1988.

American Association of University Women
Oregon Division

July 25, 1988

The Oregon Division presents the following resolution for consideration of the members attending the Regional Conference of the Mountain-Pacific Region.

WHEREAS, The history regarding the treatment of Japanese Americans during the Second World War has been largely ignored by textbook authors and others who write educational materials;

WHEREAS, Many Japanese Americans lost their homes and businesses when they were interned; and

WHEREAS, Since the United States government has granted reparation monies to help compensate these people and to help educate in regard to this sad chapter in United States history; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The censoring of textbooks and other teaching materials concerning the Japanese American internment during the Second World War be corrected by working for inclusion of appropriate information in textbooks and other teaching material; and be it further

RESOLVED, That monies for educational purposes, in the reparations bill being allocated by the United States government, be used for appropriate recognition of the Japanese American internment.

It is my expectation that when the biennial Convention of the American Assqciation of University Women convenes in Washington D.C. in June of 1989, that the organization will embrace a resolution for all textbooks used within American schools to include the Japanese American internment during World War II and an endorsement of the use of allocated funds from the federal legislation for educational purposes specifically targeted to Ontario's Japanese American Culture Center.

Let us learn from history, and not be condemned to repeat it.

Thank you.

World War II internment

The victims tell how it was, and is

D. DUNN
Argus Observer

ONTARIO — The internment of United States citizens in American detention camps during World War II, and the possibility of similar future loss of constitutional rights, were discussed Monday.

The local chapter of the American Association of University Women hosted a panel of speakers addresing the issue.

"It's an American issue," stated David Maeda of the Japanese American Citizens League. "Does the Constitution stand up only in times of political tranquility?"

He said Japanese immigrants had settled along the West Coast. When the U.S. entered WWII, 120,000 people of Japanese heritage, two-thirds of them citizens of the U.S., were taken from their coastal homes, businesses and families, and placed in inland camps.

There was not one incident of espionage or sabotage, he said, to justify the action. Due process of law was not followed, and research has since indicated it resulted from politics rather than military necessity. He said race prejudice, war hysteria and lack of leadership shaped the government's action.

Randy Harano, local JACL president, noted the Japanese immigrants, and their American-born children were said to be living in "sensitive areas" by irrigation ditches or under power lines, but he said it was because these portions of marginal land were the only ones they were allowed to settle.

Argus Observer/LARRY HOFFMAN

GIVING VIEWS — Telling the direct and indirect effects of World War II internment camps on their lives were (from left) Randy Harano, David Maeda, Joe Saito and George Iseri, all of Ontario.

Iseri said anyone with any Japanese blood had to go to the camps. In mixed marriages, the non-Japanese needed permission to visit spouse and children at the camp.

The Iseri family was taken to a camp on the California desert.

"We were not mistreated," Iseri said. "We had army cots, brand new ones, I think, with mattresses we filled with straw. It was 100 degrees in the shade, and there wasn't any shade."

He and his wife shared a 12'x16' apartment with another newlywed couple. They hung blankets to partition the room.

They were moved to the Tule Lake camp on the California-Oregon border and Iseri said it was a "mansion" compared to the former camp. The buildings had plasterboard walls, ceilings, big wooden stoves.

He noted the detainees were once given two dozen eggs and 10 gallons of milk to make scrambled eggs. He said the food conditions caused them to theive to see what a whole egg tasted like.

> 'Does the Constitution stand up only in times of political tranquility?' — David Maeda

George Iseri, a 21-year-old newlywed at the time, was among the detainees. He noted that early in 1941 shipping routes between Japan and the U.S. were being closed.

"We could see this was a very poor situation and we dreaded the thought of war," Iseri said.

His father, a leader among Japanese immigrants in their community, was arrested the day after Pearl Harbor. Iseri's brother volunteered for service and asked George to take care of the family which included 12 children.

The brother was killed in France in 1944.

Iseri described his father as "a whipped man" when he was released from camp. For the rest of his life, he remained hurt and bitter about the way his country had treated him. He had come to the U.S. when he was just 16.

Joe Saito was not an evacuee. He served in the military for four years and three months during the war years. He said he was treated fairly in the army, but was not allowed to join the navy, coast guard or air force. He noted people from the Philippines, residents of a U.S. territory, could serve as cooks on ships, but not American citizens of Japanese descent.

Saito's family came to the Treasure Valley in 1934, preceeding most of the other Japanese-Americans by several years. He was strongly motivated, he said, to be treated as an equal, because he had watched the unequal treatment of his parents.

Mumi Wakasugi, at 15, was sent here with his invalid father and the teen began farming on the Oregon Slope.

When America joined the war, Japanese-Americans were restricted to a 20-mile radius of their homes and a daylight-only curfew. The JACL had called a national meeting in San Francisco to try to make recommendations about the situation Americans of Japanese blood faced.

Wakasugi was to go and requested identification papers from the Attorney General who told him "you're an American, you don't need ID to go anywhere."

Wakasugi got the papers anyway and they kept him from being apprehended. Once at a southern Oregon gas station, a sheriff tried to stop his passage, but the papers prevented it. The papers also got him and the others in his car across guarded bridges between Oregon and San Francisco.

He said the JACL made suggestions about the relocation plan and ramifications, but he didn't know if the suggestions were considered or heard just as a formality. He said much later they found the relocation was prompted by politics rather than military necessity.

See CAMPS, page 2

Tuesday

Fair

Today's forecast calls for fair skies, a high in the upper 20s to mid 30s, and a low tonight between 5 and 15 degrees.

. . . Page 4

The speakers discussed the redress bill before Congress. It's designed to acknowledge government wrongdoing and to provide monetary restitution to Americans put into the relocation camps without due process of law. Maeda said the money cited in the bill includes funds to educate the public about this chapter of American history. It was said facts about the camps are rarely taught in the public schools.

Plans for an Ontario performing arts center and museum preserving internment information were discussed.

Iseri, Saito and Wakasugi, all noted the Ontario community welcomed Japanese-Americans both before the war and after when the area was one of those open for resettlement by camp detainees.

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Alice Trindle
Regional Coordinator
State of Oregon Tourism Division
104 Elm Street
La Grande, Oregon 97850

Allow me to begin with an introduction. I am the Regional Coordinator for the State of Oregon Tourism Division, under the Economic Development Department. In this role I have been asked to coordinate with communities in their efforts to develop the visitor industry in Eastern Oregon. For the purposes of addressing this forum, I will primarily be addressing the potential for economic gains in the tourism industry as a result of developing a Japanese American Cultural Center at Ontario, Oregon.

In assessing the economic posture of Eastern Oregon, and for that matter Oregon as a whole, it appears to me that we face three major liabilities. These liabilities seem to be shared, among Oregon's major industries, and they are creating a stumbling block in our economic growth. Those liabilities are:

1) A lack of awareness in the domestic and international market of the variety and quality of our products;

2) The seasonality of the products we produce; and

3) The lack of paid staff to carry our products to the marketplace.

In regards to the tourism industry in Eastern Oregon, these liabilities continue to hold true. We have a wonderful natural resource product in this region. Recreation abounds. From the 52 mile-long lake Owyhee with boating, fishing, and rock hounding, to the deepest gorge on the face of this earth, Hell's Canyon. From the mountain ranges and wilderness areas of the Blues, Wallowas , Strawberrys, to the geological wonders of the Steen's Mountains and the John Day Fossil Beds. In Eastern Oregon, there is no doubt we have existing recreational pursuits. we simply have very little <u>developed</u> destination tourist opportunities, largely due to the liabilities suggested above.

So, in addressing the potential for economic growth by increasing visitors to the region due to the establishment of a Japanese American Cultural Center,(JACC), let us begin by examining how the project effects those liabilities.

1) The placement of the JACC in Ontario would not only receive national attention for the State of Oregon, but also heighten the growing awareness in the Japanese market. At this time Oregon is only capturing a small portion of the Japanese traveler's time. While the commitment of Delta Airlines to using Portland as their gateway city for the trade has heightened the awareness for this State, very few travelers are staying in Oregon for more than several hours. Part of the problem of why they are not spending more time in Oregon, is that we are not offering attractions to lure them away from California. They have little awareness of what is available. The JACC could act as a strong component in a Japanese

traveler's package, and in other domestic markets, in an effort to keep visitors in Oregon for three or four days. Building attractions based on cultural and historic background will serve to create a positive image of "Oregon", in the minds of decision makers, that is so desperately needed to achieve marketing success.

2) The JACC could serve to alleviate some of the seasonality involved in the current tourism traffic. By packaging other attractions through out he State and the Region, such as The Oregon Trail National Monument, The John Day Fossil Beds, The High Desert Museum, The Oregon Coast, and Portland, to name a few, we can target markets which are not purely tied into visits during the high season summer months. They key to changing the seasonality of our visitors is found in providing attractions and packages which encourage purchase year-round.

3) In addressing both of the above we have touched on marketing. Successful marketing campaigns require creativity and people to carry them out. The JACC proposal addresses paid staff which can position the "Center" as an integral part of a regional and state campaign.

In the final analysis, the above points, no matter how true, are not totally based on economic data on which one might go to the bank. So let's address for a moment, revenue potential and jobs created if the JACC were to become a reality.

In visitor surveys conducted in six Eastern Oregon counties during 1987, in which Malheur County participated, it was discovered that a clear majority of those surveyed spent an average in excess of $75.00 per day on expenses. If we were to take the information compiled on potential or projected visitor counts for the Oregon Trail National Monument, (OTNM), to be located 70 miles northwest of Ontario just off I-84, and arbitrarily cut them in half for an estimation of rubber tire visitors to the JACC, we would arrive at a potential 100,000 visitors per year. Using the very raw figure of $75.00 per day per visitor and multiplying by 100,000 visitors, we would be realizing a $7,500,000 yearly return to the region due to the JACC.

In the question of job creation, in addition to those described in the JACC proposal, the methodology of arriving at an agreeable multiplier is highly debated. But, if we were to again rely on the figures developed by the OTNM and simply again divide arbitrarily in one-half, we arrive at between 265-187 FTE direct and indirect jobs.

In summary, it is my opinion that the JACC would greatly add to our tourism product of Oregon. It soundly decreases our liabilities in achieving economic growth through the visitor industry. JACC would provide jobs and return revenues to the local, state and federal coffers. The arbitrary cut of one-half the prospects for the OTM as potential for the JACC seem very realistic, if not conservative, given the natural marketing efforts which will develop between the two attractions.

The JACC should be constructed for cultural and historic reasons, as a remembrance and reminder for all Americans and our visitors. But in addition, the JACC should be built fort he tremendous economic impact its establishment would have on this region and the State of Oregon.

Department of Human Resources
EMPLOYMENT DIVISION
La Grande Office
1901 ADAMS AVENUE, LA GRANDE, OREGON 97850 PHONE 963-7111

July 29, 1988

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
RES:JJY
R&S 2-18-5

TO: Richard Bertram, Manager
Ontario Local Office - 00910

FROM: Jason Yohannan, Eastern Oregon Regional Economist (JY)
Research & Statistics/La Grande - 00024

Subject: Japanese American Cultural Center

As proposed, the Malheur County Japanese American Cultural Center would consist of three parts: 1) A museum housing a current Smithsonian Institution exhibit and other displays, including a Japanese garden; 2) A 1200-seat multi-media center to be used for theater, films, concerts, lectures, and other cultural events; and 3) A multi-purpose facility, to function as a site for various meetings and gatherings. Although the fundamental purposes of the proposal are educational and cultural in nature, and it is hoped that those aspects alone would lead to favorable sentiment toward the concept, the center would also bring economic benefits to Malheur County. This analysis addresses the economic issues.

Malheur County contributes mightily to the important agriculture industry in Oregon, but the county has not seen as much economic success in recent years as the rest of Oregon. This is evidenced by Malheur County's continuing federal status as a Labor Surplus Area and its continuing State status as an Economically Lagging Area. The county's unemployment rate has exceeded the yearly state average for the last five years and has exceeded the state's monthly rate for 26 out of the last 30 months. Of Oregon's 36 counties, Malheur County ranks next to last in per capita personal income. In short, the area could use the project.

Economic benefits from the cultural center would come in two phases. The facility's construction in itself would create work for the area. Later, operation and use of the completed complex would offer ongoing jobs. These two aspects are summarized on the following pages.

CONSTRUCTION

The project proposes a contruction cost of $9,314,000. The construction activity would normally be expected to involve full-time, temporary workers. Design and construction are proposed over a two year period prior to the center's opening. This amounts to a $4,657,000 per year endeavor.

Job creation estimation is an inexact science, to say the least. However, one U.S. government study has concluded that, for a $1,000,000 institutional building construction project of this type, an estimated 8.5267 direct construction jobs are needed. Extrapolating that study to this project, we would expect to see 40 directly created construction jobs, lasting two years. The figure of 40 is arrived at by multiplying the study's conclusion of 8.5267 per million dollars with our 4.657 million dollar annual cost.

Further, the construction activity creates demand for machinery, tools, supplies, etc. The U.S. government study indicated that the same $1,000,000 construction project would require 9.5526 indirect jobs; that is, jobs at suppliers of the construction contractors. In our case, we could estimate seeing 9.5526 * 4.657, or 44 indirect jobs.

Finally, the study tries to account for the "ripple" effect of these additional jobs. In the institutional construction case, the $1,000,000 ripples its way into 7.8947 various other jobs in the study area. These ripple effects do not always accrue to the surrounding community, but for the purposes of this analysis, the 7.8947 figure is used, as no better information is available. Taking 7.8947 * 4.657, an estimated 37 induced jobs are created by the construction activity.

In sum, construction of the proposed Malheur County Japanese American Cultural Center could be expected to bring in 121 temporary jobs. The jobs would be expected to last for the two year construction phase of the project.

COMPLETED FACILITY

The published proposal spells out quite specifically the staff necessary to operate the museum, the multi-media center, and the Japanese garden. Reviewing from the proposal:

Museum
- one director
- one curator
- one secretary

Multi-media Center
- one executive director
- one assistant director
- one secretary
- one custodian

Japanese Garden
- two gardeners

Other potential staffers are mentioned in the proposal. These include a Board of Directors, other advisory groups, and the Chamber of Commerce. For the most part, these staffers are not assumed to add to the tangible economic benefits of the proposal in this analysis, as they are expected to function in a volunteer capacity. To the extent that the Chamber of Commerce will have responsibility for managing and operating the multi-purpose facility, it is conceivable that the paid staff of the Chamber could increase by one or two individuals in order to handle these increased responsibilities.

Other needed staffing is assumed to be available from work-study students at Treasure Valley Community College. Chores for these students would involve acting as hosts in the museum, working in the gift shop, staffing the multi-purpose facility for catering or cleanup during meetings, and other duties. Estimating how many student jobs would be created is made difficult by the fact that many of these types of jobs would be transitory in nature, depending on the success of the center in attracting visitors and meetings. It is also complicated by the fact that almost all of the students would work in a part-time capacity due to the demands of their classwork. For example, if 200 hours of labor is needed in a given week, it could be filled by 10 student workers working 20 hours each or 50 student workers working 4 hours each. Thus, even knowing the expected workload of the student group, the number of jobs created could vary quite widely.

An estimate of perhaps 25 part-time jobs for students would be a fair ballpark figure.

To review, ongoing operation of the facility could be expected to use 3 full-time museum workers, 4 full-time multi-media center workers, 2 full-time gardeners, perhaps 2 part-time Chamber staffers, and 25 part-time student workers. This comes to a total of 9 full-time jobs and 27 part-time jobs.

Funding for the salaries of all the jobs listed above are assumed to be paid for from admission fees to the museum (up to $3.00 per person), rent on the multi-media center and the multi-purpose facility (estimated to bring in $60,000 per year), sales of cultural center memberships ($15 for an individual and $35 for a family), and interest from a $3,000,000 endowment fund ($240,000 per year at 8% interest). Should the assumptions in the proposal hold true regarding the amount of revenue generated from these sources, it would appear that they are sufficient to cover the salaries of the estimated 36 employees.

The spinoff effects from a new attraction in Ontario are now given attention. This part of the analysis is the most complicated and least definite. The proposal estimates that 45,000 visitors per year will visit the museum. During the first year or two of operation, the majority of museum visitors are likely to come from the local area. Later years would likely see the balance shift heavily toward nonlocal visitors. A knowledgeable source estimates that after the initial surge of local visitors subsides, 20% of the patronage would consist of local visitors, and the remaining 80% would be visitors from outside the area, including Japan. It is the outside visitors that are expected to create an increased demand for visitor and tourist-related services. The proposal recognizes the need for these increased services by suggesting that nearby blocks could be upgraded by private sector interests to include a hotel, a restaurant, a tea house, a gift shop, and other stores.

Taking the assumption that 80% of the 45,000 visitors per year would be nonlocal and going one step further by assuming they will spend money on area goods and services, we can see additional economic benefits. Eighty percent of 45,000 amounts to 36,000 visitors.

During the planning process for the Oregon Trail National Monument as part of the Baker County Regional Strategy, an estimate was made to account for tourist generated revenues. Their process is adapted for use here.

The Baker County Regional Strategy assumed that 10% of the Oregon Trail Monument visitors would be local. It estimated that 60% of the visitors would be "day trips" from nonlocal people, and each of these parties would spend $50.00 per day. Finally, it estimated that the remaining 30% of the visitors would be from outside the area, would stay an average of three days, and would spend an average of $300.00 per party.

In using the Baker County estimates in this analysis, three points need to be made. First, the estimate of 20% of the cultural center's visitors being local is relatively close to Baker County's estimate of 10%. It is entirely reasonable to expect Ontario's attraction to tend to serve the local population more often than Baker County's attraction, as it will serve a community need for meetings and cultural events in addition to its regional and national purpose.

Second, the idea of a large number of day-trippers spending $50.00 per party probably is reasonable for Ontario. In Baker County, it was estimated that visitors will come in an average of three per party. That would be a close estimate for Ontario as well, as the Ontario Welcome Center noted in 1986 that the average party size per visiting vehicle was 2.89 persons.

Third, the Baker County estimate of three-day stays for longer visitors may be a little long for this instance. It would be more realistic to expect a two-day stay here, making the average party expenditure $200.00 during the trip.

Spending of the local visitors would already be accounted for by numbers put together previously, such as admission fees and memberships. Given an estimated 36,000 nonlocal visitors per year, based on our adaptation of the Baker County estimates, we would expect to have 24,000 day visitors and 12,000 two-day visitors. With an average size of 3 visitors per party, this translates into 8,000 one-day parties and 4,000 two-day parties. It then follows that:

8,000 * $ 50 = $400,000 per year from single-day visitors
4,000 * $200 = $800,000 per year from multiple-day visitors
$1,200,000 per year from all nonlocal visitors.

One more item taken from the Baker County estimates concerns the breakdown of spending by components. They estimated travel spending included:

30% on food and beverages
25% on lodging
20% on automobile fuel and oil
10% on other transportation-related purchases
15% on recreational and other purchases
100% of travel dollars.

Ontario's increased annual business revenue, based on those percentages and the earlier dollar figure, along with an estimated number of jobs which could be supported by the additional revenue are as follows:

Food and beverage	$360,000	22 jobs
Lodging	$300,000	23 jobs
Auto fuel and oil	$240,000	5 jobs
Other transportation	$120,000	7 jobs
Recreation and other	$180,000	13 jobs
Total	$1,200,000	70 jobs

The majority of the 70 additional jobs would likely be of a part-time nature.

As was described previously, job creation estimation is quite inexact. The additional 70 jobs are not identified as coming from newly established firms or from expansion among existing firms. Of course, Malheur County benefits to about the same degree in either case. However, much of this part of the analysis depends on the degree to which existing businesses could accommodate the additional demand expected to arise from this project without expansion. For instance, because only a minimal kitchen is planned for the center, local restaurants would be expected to cater the events as necessary. Questions arise as to whether they would just work existing staff additional hours or hire new staff. Much of the answer lies in how often large gatherings can be scheduled for the center.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Should the center be successful in attracting several out-of-region visitors, air travel at regional airports would see an increase. The affected airports would primarily be in Boise and Portland (especially if tourists from Japan include Ontario in their travel plans). However, the increased travel may not create enough change to be noticeable, and even if it did, very few of the effects would arise in Malheur County.

As the center becomes an established part of the region's cultural attractions, it is hypothesized that Treasure Valley Community College could develop larger music, art, and/or theater departments. College staffing in these departments may see resultant increases.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the construction phase of the project would offer 121 temporary jobs during its two-year duration. The completed Cultural Center would be staffed by 36 employees. Spinoffs from the project could result in 70 additional jobs. Treasure Valley Community College may expand certain departments; for this analysis, we'll conservatively estimate 2 employees.

In conclusion, the economic benefits of the Malheur County Japanese American Cultural Center would come in the form of: 1) 121 mostly full-time jobs during the two-year construction phase of the project; and 2) 108 permanent jobs during the operational phase of the project, approximately 24% of which are estimated to be full-time jobs.

Gretchen A. Rust
Executive Vice President
Ontario Chamber of Commerce
173 S.W. 1st Street
Ontario, Oregon 97914

TESTIMONY FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARING
CONGRESSMAN RON WYDEN
AUGUST 17, 1988 Weese Bldg #10

ONTARIO'S SISTER CITY

Fourteen years ago, the City of Ontario, Oregon and Sayama, Japan outside of Osaka became Sister Cities. It was accomplished not through a formal organization but by businessmen of Ontario, George Iseri and Bob Sullivan. Over the years, some 200 visitors from Sayama and many formal and informal groups from Ontario have exchanged visits and strengthened the relationship.

In July of 1987, a delegation headed by Mayor Yoshikawa of Sayama, came to Ontario to invite its' citizens to participate in ceremonies marking Sayama's status as a city of over 50,000 in population. Twenty two delegates headed by our Mayor Laurine Wrenn and Sister City Chairperson, Judge Nita Bellows traveled to Sayama to witness the investiture. On October 3, 1987, Mayor Wrenn spoke to the assembled citizens of the newly named city, Osakasayama-shi of the deep commitment to international understanding and to the on-going friendship between our two cities. Members of Prime Minister Nakasone's cabinet, Presidents of neighboring Prefectures and dignitaries from all of Japan shared the stage with our lone woman. Many honors were accorded our group and the ties of our relationship were forged stronger for sharing in this special day.

Also, during our visit, we renewed the growing commitment to Economic and Educational relationships. The President of Treasure Valley Community College and his counterparts in the four Universities in Osakasayama met for talks to begin exchanges of students. Others in our group talked with business leaders in exploring business ties to the Malheur County area. This year the delegation from Japan continued these discussions to look at agriculture as a first step in business exchanges. It will be an ongoing process but commitment is deep on both sides.

In talking informally with our Sister City friends, we have mentioned the Cultural Center and our involvement in education of the American people to the injustice of our citizens of Japanese American descent. They are most interested in this period of history and felt strongly that the people of Japan would be most interested in seeing a museum portraying the Japanese experience in the U. S. and how our community has integrated all it's residents.

When we begin to look at the siting of this Center in Ontario, we look at these ties to Japan, our long background of support to our citizens of Japanese American ancestry and when questioned about "why Ontario?" we can answer simply, because our community has always cared about the dignity of each person in Ontario and has broadened its' concerns internationally.

We are located on a major interstate which connects us only one day away from Seattle, Portland, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. We are one hour away from the Boise Airport, connecting with the daily flights to Portland from Japan. The many attractions such as Hells Canyon, the proposed Oregon Trail Monument and McCall recreation area offer more than just the Center to visitors. Our Welcome Center on I-84, hosted over 37,000 visitors last year, with projections up for this vacation season. With the advent of a hotel/motel tax, a Visitors and Convention Bureau was established in Ontario to serve the Western Treasure Valley and market our motels, restaurants and service industries to visitors. The Cultural Center will be the meeting facility for agriculture, business and civic groups meeting in the area.

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE • 650 COLLEGE BLVD., ONTARIO, OR 97914 • (503) 889-6493

TO: Hon. Ron Wyden

FROM: Christine Krygier, Director
Small Business Development Center

DATE: August 8, 1988

RE: Testimony for congressional hearing on Ontario's Japanese American Cultural Center (J.A.C.C.)

The following testimony details the impact of the proposed Japanese American Cultural Center on new small businesses for this community and outlines the support available to those start-up businesses from the Small Business Development Center.

TRANSPORTATION

A national and international tourist market will necessitate at the least a shuttle service between the Boise Airport and Ontario, and a local car rental service; at most expansion of the Ontario Airport to accommodate commuter airline flights.

RESTAURANTS/FOOD

The center may contain for convenience of the visitors, a Japanese bakery/tea room. As an attraction local Japanese American women may offer the formal tea ceremony at prescribed times. A Japanese steakhouse featuring authentic Japanese cooking would fill a vacant niche in the current restaurant market. Conventions and cultural/educational events would mean increased catering demand which would mean expanding existing catering businesses as well as possible creation of new businesses.

CULTURAL EXHIBITS

Design and construction of exhibits could be accomplished by local consultants such as photographers, graphic artists, carpenters, seamstresses, and businesses handling multimedia productions (slide tape shows, video tapes).

LODGING/ACCOMODATIONS

Expansion of existing hotels and motels would be necessary to accomodate visiting tourists and convention groups. There is currently some interest in Bed and Breakfast operations which are very popular and which would enhance lodging options;. Overnight camping facilities are not adequate at present; this type of facility would offer an alternative to people who travel in recreational vehicles. An R.V. rental business may also be viable.

MISCELLANEOUS

The need for cultural center guidebooks, tickets and programs for exhibits and cultural events, and maps for tours of the area may engender expansion of local printing businesses. Existing travel agencies will organize tours to local points of interest in addition to new businesses which may offer such options as covered wagon rides, and a theme park with a Japanese maze (a popular Japanese attraction). Local performing arts groups would increase their productions to accommodate conventions and tour groups. The Japanese garden would require the planning and maintenance of landscapers who have experience with Japanese gardens; a new business may result from this need. A souvenir or gift shop in the facility would undoubtedly prove successful since most people buy a memento of their visit to special sites such as this one. The gardeners may wish to spin off with Japanese horticultural items, i.e., Bonsai items to be sold in the gift shop or through florist shops. Florist shops may offer special Japanese flower arranging classes. Existing gift shops may expand their lines to include gifts related to the J.A.C.C. and its activities.

I have confined my testimony to specific businesses which might expand or be started as a direct result of the J.A.C.C., but it should also be noted that the Center and the many new businesses it could generate will also have a positive growth impact on a wide spectrum of existing local businesses.

The Small Business Development Center works in conjunction with other local, state, and federal resources to provide assistance to business start ups and to existing businesses. The Center would assist the businesses related to the J.A.C.C. by offering a combination of classes, workshops, seminars, and customized business counseling in the areas of business planning, recordkeeping, taxes, personnel management, marketing, customer service, sources of capital - in short, in whatever area the client needs assistance. The J.A.C.C. offers the potential for substantial business growth in Ontario and surrounding communities, and the S.B.D.C. is ready with the tools to help make it a successful business growth.

Leonard F. Sherman DVH
President
Onatrio Development Corp.

The purpose of my testimony is to familiarize the congressman with our area, the business community and some of the business history of our area as it relates to the establishment of the Japanese American Cultural Center.

Ontario is a city of 9700 people located in the so called lower or Western Treasure Valley. The population is deceiving however, because the community offers the amenities and quality of life of a much larger community, which will allow us to provide the necessary support system for a new attraction such as the Japanese American Cultural Center.

We have approximately 800 businesses in Ontario with a trade area of 65,000 people. The fact that Oregon does not have a sales tax has contributed to the growth in the retail business in Ontario, and I think it is safe to say that it is the trade center of the lower Treasure Valley.

Our major retail trade center is West Park Plaza with approximately 245,000 square feet with 33 stores. It serves 60,000 people annually with a $45,000,000 volume. This includes a recently remodeled Albertsons Food Store which is one of the largest stores in the chain.

Holy Rosary Medical Center includes a 92 bed acute care hospital with a medical staff of forty-five physicians. Last year it served 4300 inpatients and 24,600 outpatients.

As for tourist amenities that would directly support a tourist influx generated by the Japanese American Cultural Center. We have 600 motel rooms and 35 restaurants with additional facilities in adjacent communities. Facilities are also available for recreational vehicles. There are also dealerships for service and sales of most major makes of automobiles.

With the establishment of the Japanese American Cultural Center, there may be a need to establish additional new businesses to support the visitors to the center. If this is necessary, Ontario's designation by the state of Oregon as an enterprise zone will offer many advantages to the establishment of new businesses.

Our economy is almost exclusively agriculturally based. Unfortunately our Agricultural income has declined almost 14 million dollars between 1984 and 1987. This curtailment in our basic economic entity has of course trickled down through our economy. This has left our retail and service industries somewhat injured but still in tact.

With the decline in our agricultural economy the business community has become painfully aware of the problems of a one industry economic base. The business community is enthused about the Japanese American Cultural Center not only because of the educational and cultural opportunities, but for the opportunity to diversify somewhat by adding a tourist attraction to aid in our economical diversification.

As you know, Tourism is an emerging industry with a great deal of potential. Ontario and the surrounding communities have been working to promote more tourism. One problem we have had is that we have no destination tourism other than hunting which is limited due to seasons.

The passage of a motel-hotel tax one year ago with one-third of the revenues being designated for tourism promotion has enabled our community to form a Visitors and Convention Bureau with a full time director which is actively working to market the area for tourism. This bureau could play a vital role in the promotion and marketing of the Japanese American Cultural Center. The Japanese American Cultural Center and associated facilities will allow us to expand our efforts to provide points of interest and facilities to better serve the visitor.

Our efforts in tourism also are being paralleled by our neighboring communities such as Baker, which will allow us to promote the region and offer several varied attractions for visitors.

My hope in this presentation is to leave the impression that the Japanese American Cultural Center is a facility that will be welcomed by the business community and that the community is able and willing to provide the support businesses and facilities that will be necessary when the Japanese American Cultural Center is in place.

Malheur County Court

P.O. Box 130 ● Vale, Oregon 97918
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STATEMENT OF MALHEUR COUNTY JUDGE, MAXWELL T. LIEURANCE FOR THE RECORD OF THE FIELD HEARING CONDUCTED BY REPRESENTATIVE WYDEN ON AUGUST 17, 1988 AT ONTARIO, OREGON CONCERNING THE PROPOSED JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER.

The Malheur County Court has strongly supported the construction of a Japanese-American Cultural Center from the beginning of the current effort. As a matter of fact, the County Court provided the leadership to coordinate the many ideas and concepts that were explored in the early stages of developing the proposal. Once the funding was secured for preparing the written document and appropriate consulting services were hired, the Court then looked to the present committee structure for further implementation and support of the effort. The Court is a full participant on the committee and in this continuing effort.

The Japanese-Americans who arrived and settled here in Malheur County have become an integral and contributing part of our population. They are industrious and efficient farmers and business people and have made substantial contributions to our local and state economy. They have also enriched our community with their culture and are among the most respected leaders in a multitude of endeavors including agriculture, agri-business, professional pursuits and in education.

The primary goal in establishing the cultural center is to recognize and commemorate these Japanese-Americans who suffered the injustices of relocation in World War II, some of whom settled here with other Japanese-American citizens and became substantial members of our county community.

The construction of such a cultural center also has the potential for making a tremendous contribution to the local and regional economy. Malheur County has an economic base in agriculture. There is an urgent need to diversify in agriculture and to develop other endeavors to bolster our economy.

We are just beginning to realize some development in the area of tourism. Outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, rock hounding and a tremendous potential for water-based recreation are all being developed over the long-term by cooperating agencies and the private sector. We need a cultural or wider range attraction to enhance and round out our economic picture.

The primary purpose of the cultural center is educational and to call attention to a grave injustice that must not be allowed to be

repeated. However, in addition to the museum with educational and cultural displays there will be a facility for visual displays and performing arts. The complex will be an extremely valuable asset to Malheur County and will provide a new dimension to our economy as an attraction for visitors.

The Malheur County Court is in solid support of this project.

TESTIMONY AUGUST 17, 1988 TO CONGRESSMAN WYDEN

JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
BY
DR. GLENN E MAYLE, PRESIDENT
TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
650 College Blvd.
Ontario, OR 97914

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER CONSISTING OF A MUSEUM, A MULTI-MEDIA CENTER, AND A MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY WILL BE LOCATED ON THE CAMPUS OF TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN ONTARIO, OREGON.

THIS LOCATION WILL ENHANCE THE EXISTING CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES OF THE COUNTY AND WILL SERVE AS A FOCAL POINT WHICH IS ACCESSIBLE FROM INTERSTATE 84 AND OREGON STATE HIGHWAY 201.

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS FULLY ACCREDITED BY THE NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND OFFERS DEGREES IN LOWER DIVISION COLLEGE TRANSFER AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS. THE COLLEGE HAS FAITHFULLY SERVED ITS SERVICE DISTRICT FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS AND PRESENTLY HAS A HEADCOUNT IN EXCESS OF 4,600 STUDENTS. THE MISSION OF TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS TO PROVIDE LIFELONG EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE COMMUNITY AS BOTH A RESOURCE AND A BENEFICIARY.

THE MUSEUM IN THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER WILL SERVE AS FOCAL POINT PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL STUDY

OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING CENSORSHIP AND THE PROTECTION ACCORDED ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THE EXHIBITS IN THE MUSEUM WOULD INCLUDE PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS, AND THE HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE IN AMERICA FROM THE 1880'S TO THE PRESENT.
THE MAJOR FOCUS WOULD SERVE AS A EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR GENERATIONS TO COME IN UNDERSTANDING HOW THE JAPANESE WERE INTERNED AND TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO EVERY CITIZEN REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, OR CREED.

THE MULTI-MEDIA CENTER IN THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER WILL BE UTILIZED FOR THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES, CONCERTS, RECITALS, FILMS, SLIDES, LECTURES AND CULTURAL EVENTS. THESE PERFORMANCES WILL BE EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT THE EXHIBITS IN THE MUSEUM AND PROVIDE CULTURAL STIMULUS FOR THE CITIZENS OF MALHEUR COUNTY. TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WOULD EXPAND ITS THEATRE AND FINE ARTS TO INCLUDE JAPANESE THEATRE, POETRY AND LITERATURE.

THE MULTI MEDIA CENTER IN THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER WILL PROVIDE AN ATMOSPHERE FOR EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, PLANNING SESSIONS, ASSEMBLIES, AND CONFERENCES. TOPICS TO BE COVERED ARE ENDLESS AND INCLUDE PURPOSE AND METHODS IN REWRITING OUR HISTORY BOOKS, CONSTITUTIONAL BREECH, PROTECTION

UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND A REVIEW OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELTS EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066. THE CENTER WILL FURTHER SERVE AS A REGIONAL ENTERTAINMENT FACILITY FOR OUR SISTER CITY SAYAMA, JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZEN'S LEAGUE, AND THE OBON FESTIVAL. EDUCATIONAL COURSES IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE WILL BE OFFERED.

THE CENTER WILL ALSO SERVE AS AN INFORMATION DISSEMINATION CENTER THROUGH OUT THE ENTIRE NORTHWEST. THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER WILL SERVE MANY PURPOSES AND WILL ONLY BE LIMITED BY THE ENERGIES AND IMAGINATION OF THE PEOPLE SERVED.

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE • 650 COLLEGE BLVD., ONTARIO, OR 97914 • (503) 889-6493

TESTIMONY AUGUST 17, 1988 TO CONGRESSMAN WYDEN

JAPANESE AMERICAL CULTURAL CENTER

SCOTT D. SHAW, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIVISION

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I want to point out a couple of local arrangements we have at Treasure Valley Community College to expand the options for educational offerings relative to the Japanese American Cultural Center operations. These arrangements make it possible to offer both Upper Division (300 and 400 level) courses and Graduate Courses here in Ontario.

1. We house an Eastern Oregon State College Outreach Center here on the TVCC campus in Ontario. They offer upper division courses at TVCC, usually in the Business and Education fields. They often utilize TVCC instructors to teach these courses. They do not charge out-of-state tuition.

2. We have an arrangement with Boise State University for interactive microwave transmitted instruction with their main campus, which is about an hour away. They offer not only upper division courses on our campus, but also graduate courses and seminars through their extensive microwave linkups. They do not charge out-of-state tuition for these classes offered in Ontario.

It is conceivable that the Japanese American Cultural Center would be linked into this system as to not only receive video, two way audio as we are now, but could also be a microwave send site as well. We have a very cooperative and functional relationship with BSU and anticipate that these arrangements could be very easily arranged.